APRIL 2006 Rs.8/- 80 Pages

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

உங்கள் குழந்தையின் வளர்ச்சிக்காக நீங்கள் எடுக்கும் முயற்சிகள் ஏராளம்.

இப்போது அவர்கள் முன்னேற்றத்துக்கும் உங்கள் உதவி தேவை.

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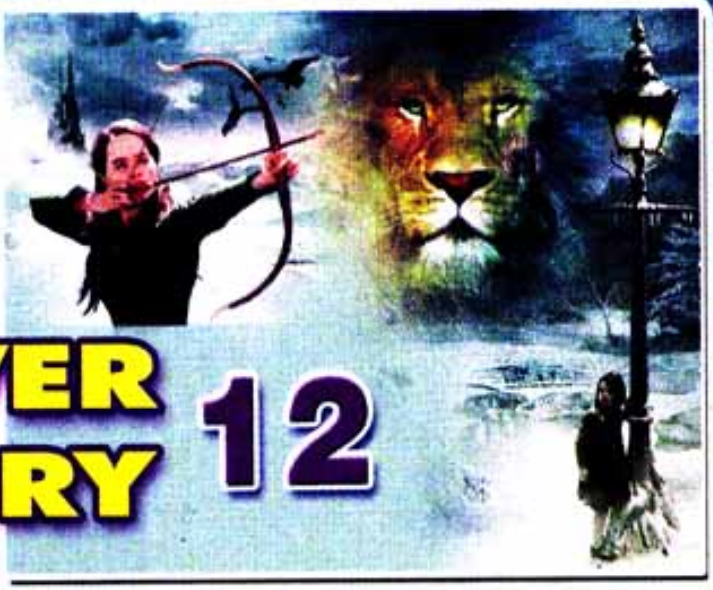

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Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children.
-William Canton

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THE Magazine for Children

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THE Magazine for Children

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Dear Readers,

Well, exams are getting over and summer vacation is around the corner. So, what do you propose to do during the hols?

Usually the first casuality is the daily routine. Late night TV, getting up late, skipping breakfast, heavy lunch and so on. Don't let this happen to you. It results in waste of time and laziness.

Draw up a different time table for the hols and stick to it. You will achieve more by this. Allot time for both work and leisure. Develop a hobby which interests you and which will be a life long companion.

Learn something new. Go to a computer class, speed maths class, karate class or art class as per your wish.

Ofcourse everybody likes to travel and see new places. But for an average family this can last only for a week or two for economic reasons. The rest of the holidays should not be wasted.

If I were you, I would learn a practical skill using my hands. Approach an electrician, plumber or carpenter well known to you. Work for him and learn the tricks of the profession. The practical knowledge will help you throughout your life, besides making you understand the dignity of labour.

Please remember to take necessary precautions like wearing gloves, goggles etc. as required. Happy Hols!

- Editor

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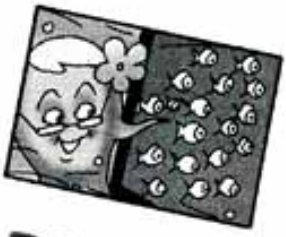

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ZAI WHITAKER

THE NEW WORLD OF THE HUMANGOOSES

Gundu and Keeri Humangoos knew it was time to get out of bed. But tired mongooses find it hard to wake up, and yesterday's trek had almost finished them off.

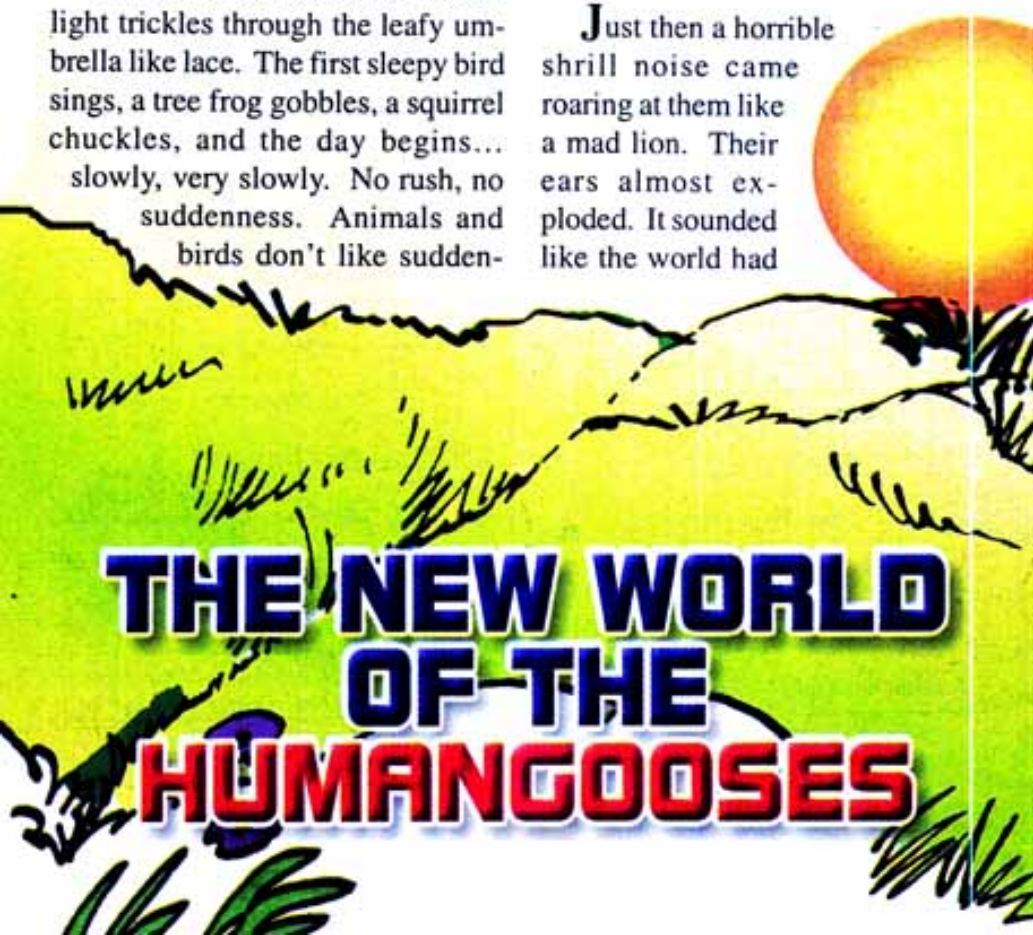
After many sleepy tumbles back and forth, Gundu poked his pointy head out of the bush. What was all this? For a minute he thought he was dreaming. Then he remembered... They were now in the rice paddy, not in the jungle. Dawn was coming in... but how different it was from the jungle dawn!

In the forest, the beautiful dawn light trickles through the leafy umbrella like lace. The first sleepy bird sings, a tree frog gobbles, a squirrel chuckles, and the day begins... slowly, very slowly. No rush, no suddenness. Animals and birds don't like suddenness very much. In fact they don't like it at all. It gives them the shivers. But here, under this great expanse of open sky, the sun suddenly popped up.

A big orange ball just floated up from the line between the sky and land! Just the way thoughts pop up in my mind, said Gundu to himself.

Or...(sometimes)... don't, he added to himself. He was an honest and humble mongoose. As he lay there, feeling the breeze blow through his fur, Keeri joined him, yawning noisily.

Just then a horrible shrill noise came roaring at them like a mad lion. Their ears almost exploded. It sounded like the world had

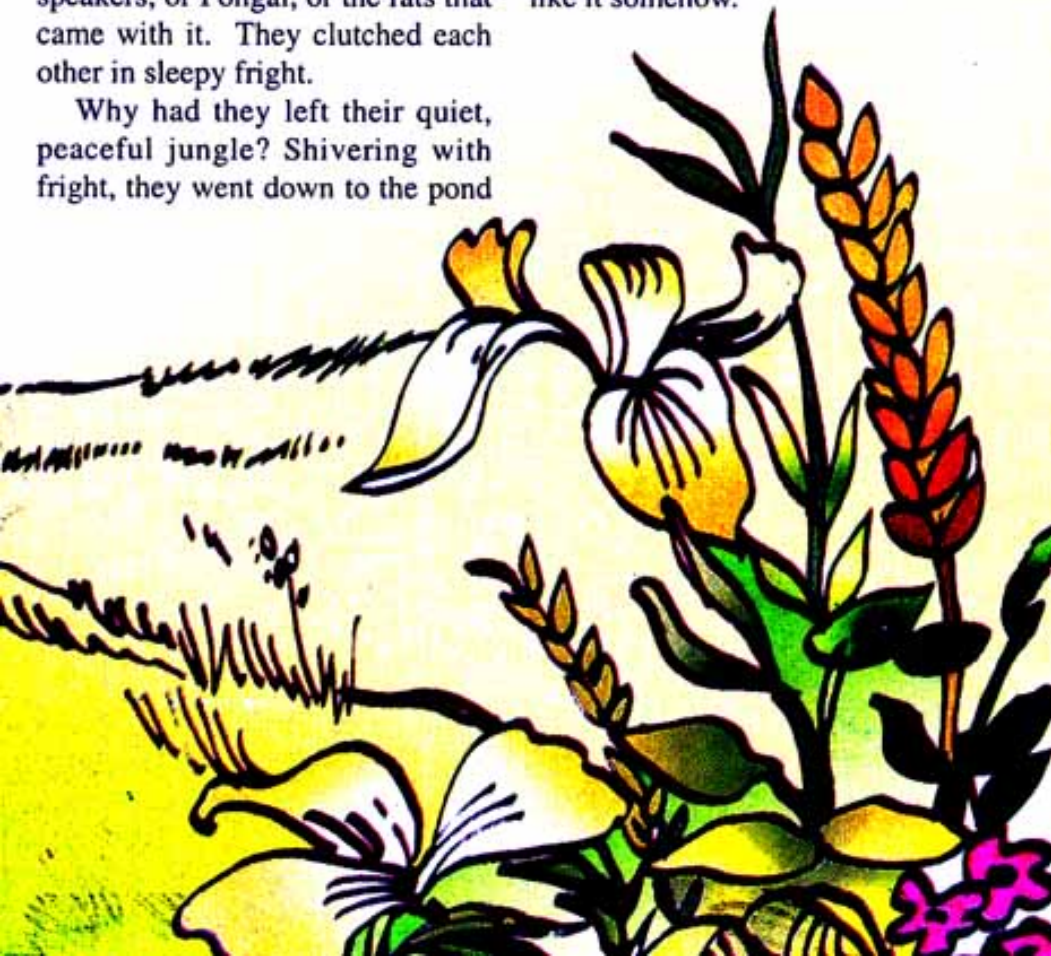


gone crazy. It sounded like every tuneless sound in the world had been bunched together and sprayed at them. It was their first experience of a loud speaker. It was Pongal.

Now as you probably know, paddy field mongooses certainly don't dislike pongal loud speakers. Because Pongal equals harvest, and harvest equals rats, and rats equal yummy mongoose food. But the Humangooses were jungle mongooses, and didn't know about loud speakers, or Pongal, or the rats that came with it. They clutched each other in sleepy fright.

Why had they left their quiet, peaceful jungle? Shivering with fright, they went down to the pond to wash. And there they saw something that made their blood run cold.

A herd of strange new creatures had come down to the water to drink. They looked like they didn't belong on this planet. They walked on two legs and not four, like normal creatures. And- amazing!- no tails! Instead, they had on their skin some strange, colourful things like big leaves, but thinner. They made meaningless noises, continuously. Maybe it was talk, but it didn't sound like it somehow.



As the creatures walked down to the pond-edge they didn't bend down to drink, like normal folk, but instead went into the water, rubbed something on their bodies, and sank in like turtles. And they never stopped talking, even then! Gundu and Keeri exchanged surprised glances. "They must have a lot of ideas in their heads!" said Gundu.

Keeri wasn't so sure. "Maybe they're different. Maybe they can talk without ideas."

Gundu laughed a long chuckly laugh. Keeri said such funny things sometimes! Then he stopped laughing, and moved closer and closer to the herd. A long-ago memory had floated into his brain, like a feather. A story told long, long ago, and passed down from generation to generation of his family. No one had really believed it; every mongoose enjoyed it as a myth or legend. But now his eyes were saying it might just have been one of those myths that suddenly turns true.

The two mongooses stood on their hind legs and rubbed their furry tummies in gleeful wonder. How amazing!

Like all mongooses, they loved to see new things, both living and non-living. A gentle breeze ruffled their fur. They stopped feeling home-sick for the jungle.

"Oh, my," said Gundu.
"Oh my," agreed Keeri.

But just at that moment something happened, something so shocking and awful, that they became almost mad with fright.

(To be continued)

ALL FOOL'S DAY!

"The first of April, some do say,
Is set apart for All Fool's Day.
But why the people call it so,
Nor I, nor they themselves do know.
But on this day are people sent,
On purpose for pure merriment"
- Poor Robins Almanac (1790).

I'm sure all of us wait for April 1st popularly known as All Fool's Day. April Fool's Day as you all, know is observed by playing a practical joke on a 'victim' who is then called an April Fool! But how many of you know the origin of this custom?

Well, it is believed that the origin can be traced to France, when in 1582, King Charles IX adopted the Gregorian Calendar where the new year begins on January 1st. (Previously New Year Celebrations began on March 25 and ended on April 1) Those who refused to accept the change or just forgot, received foolish gifts and invites to non existent, parties. The 'victim' was known as a 'poisson d'avril' or 'April Fish'!

This custom was adopted by the British and they brought it to the United States. Each country, why each province, has a special name for an April Fool. April Noddy, Gowk etc.

Hey! Don't forget. Traditionally, pranks have to be played in the forenoon only. Afternoons are meant for the 'victim' to turn tables by shouting : "April Fool's gone past, And you're the biggest fool at last!" So folks if you are a victim this year, you'll have the last word!

- Priya Ravi

POTTER
THEORIES & RUMOURS

Here is a bit about the Horcruxes (parts of the soul), for those who have read Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince. There are seven Horcruxes, and according to Dumbledore, these are :

1. Diary (Tom Riddle's)
2. Hufflepuff's cups
3. Slytherin's locket
4. Marvolo's ring
5. Some object of Godric Gryffindor's or Rowena Ravenclaw's
6. May be possibly Nagini

and it's the seventh and the last Horcrux that poses a mystery.

There is a theory that the last Horcrux, the last past of Voldemort's soul may be inside Harry himself.

This can be proved from the fact, that in all her books, especially Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, J.K. Rowling has written that when Voldemort tried to kill Harry, he put a bit of himself into Harry.

That 'bit of himself' might be a seventh of his soul which is inside Harry.

Another feeble but reasonable evidence for this theory is their similarities (between Harry and Voldemort).

The similarities are :

1. They are both orphans
2. They are both half-bloods
3. Both of them think / thought of Hogwarts as their home
4. Both look like their fathers.
5. Both of them have feathers in their wands of the same bird, Fawkes the phoenix.

* Tom Riddle's Diary

These are the only two feathers, Fawkes ever gave for making wands. This makes the two wands brothers, which can be seen from Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, when the wands connect, and Priori Incantatem happens.

There are too many theories like these, to point out at one and say that this one or that one is the correct one.

Guess we will have to wait till 2007 / 2008 to find out these things.

- H.Sindhiya,
Std.IX, Lok Puram Public School, Thane

Hey! HP Fans. Awaiting the 7th book, eh? I bet you are! Here are some interesting facts and rumours:

Facts

JK has revealed that it is the longest and largest book of the series.

Lupin is going to play a big part in this and so will Lily's back - story.

Rumours

The title "Harry Potter and the Quest of the Centaur" has been rumoured but is very unlikely.

Professor Trelawney prophesied that "Neither will live while the other survives", so it seems certain that either of them will die in this book. However Rowling said on her website that : "Myself and Madam Trelawney worded that prophecy very carefully" and so the outcome is a speculation at the moment.

Book 7 will hit the book stores on 07.07.07. i.e. 7th of July 2007. (wonder whose birthday falls on 7th).

- T. Madhuri,
Std.IX, DAV Matric HSS, Chennai

SEETHA SRIKANTH

Surangini is an Indian fairy tale with a touch of magic and morals. Surangini by Partap Sharma (Art by Vandana Bist) is published by Katha, Price : Rs.120

This story starts off like many other Indian love stories. Kalu is a good but poor weaver. He falls in love with Surangini, a rich zamindar's daughter who passes by his house daily. Surangini hardly knows him, but he cannot forget her. Surangini has lost her mother and looks after her young brothers and sisters. When the time comes for Surangini to marry, she offers to wed only the person who brings joy to her little sisters and brothers. While the zamindar agrees to her condition, he dislikes Kalu because he is poor. The zamindar does not want Kalu anywhere near Surangini.

From here the love story becomes a bit of an adventure and fairy tale.

Kalu weaves a beautiful carpet and he wants to present it to Surangini at her swayamvaram (occasion when the bride chooses the man she wants to marry).

Many strange and magical things happen here. Does the zamindar have his way against Kalu? Does Kalu get to marry Surangini? What happens to the children? You will have to read the book to know! This book is just one of the stories that is taken from a chain of stories called Surangini Tales by Sharma.

The best thing about this book is the artwork. The book has beautiful illustrations and you feel like looking at the pictures again and again. Vandana Bist won an award for her pictures.

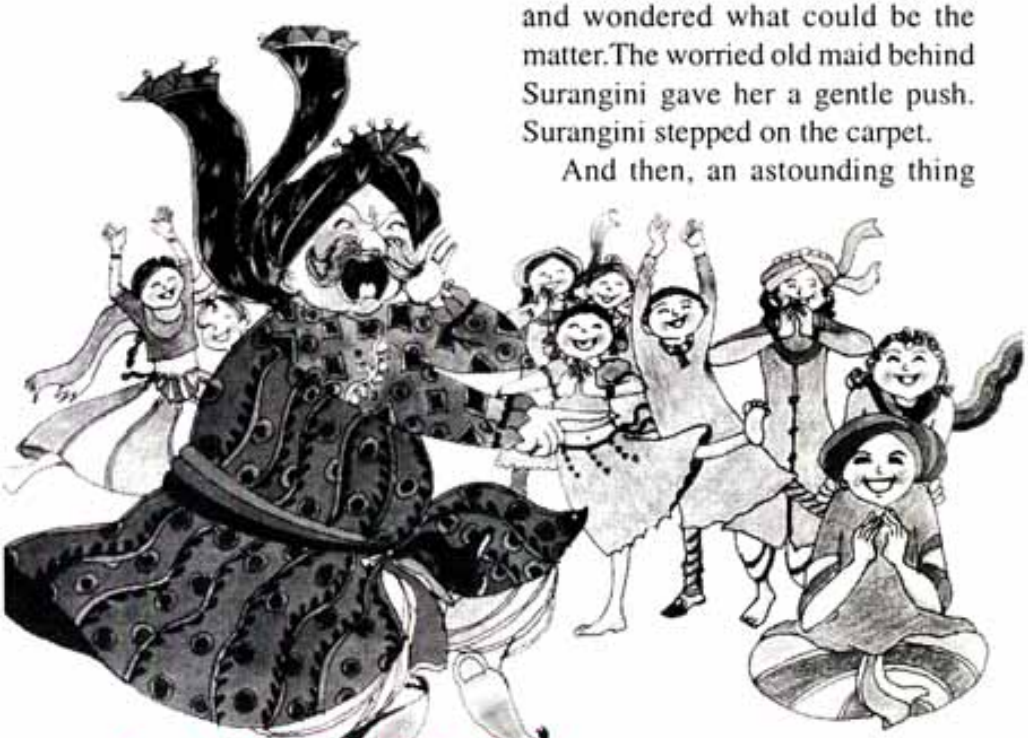
Excerpt :

Surangini moved on. And then she saw Kalu's carpet! At the very edge of it, a strange feeling took hold of her. She hesitated and looked at it again and stopped and drew back. She thought she saw herself reflected in the carpet!

"What's this?" she cried in fear.

The gathering exclaimed at this and wondered what could be the matter.The worried old maid behind Surangini gave her a gentle push. Surangini stepped on the carpet.

And then, an astounding thing



A WEAVE OF STORIES

happened.

Before the stunned eyes of everyone, she sank slowly out of sight as though into a pool of water!

Within a few moments there was a great clamour and uproar, as people recovered from their surprise. They called out to Surangini but she was nowhere to be seen.

They looked at the carpet, and all they could see was its faint blue glow.

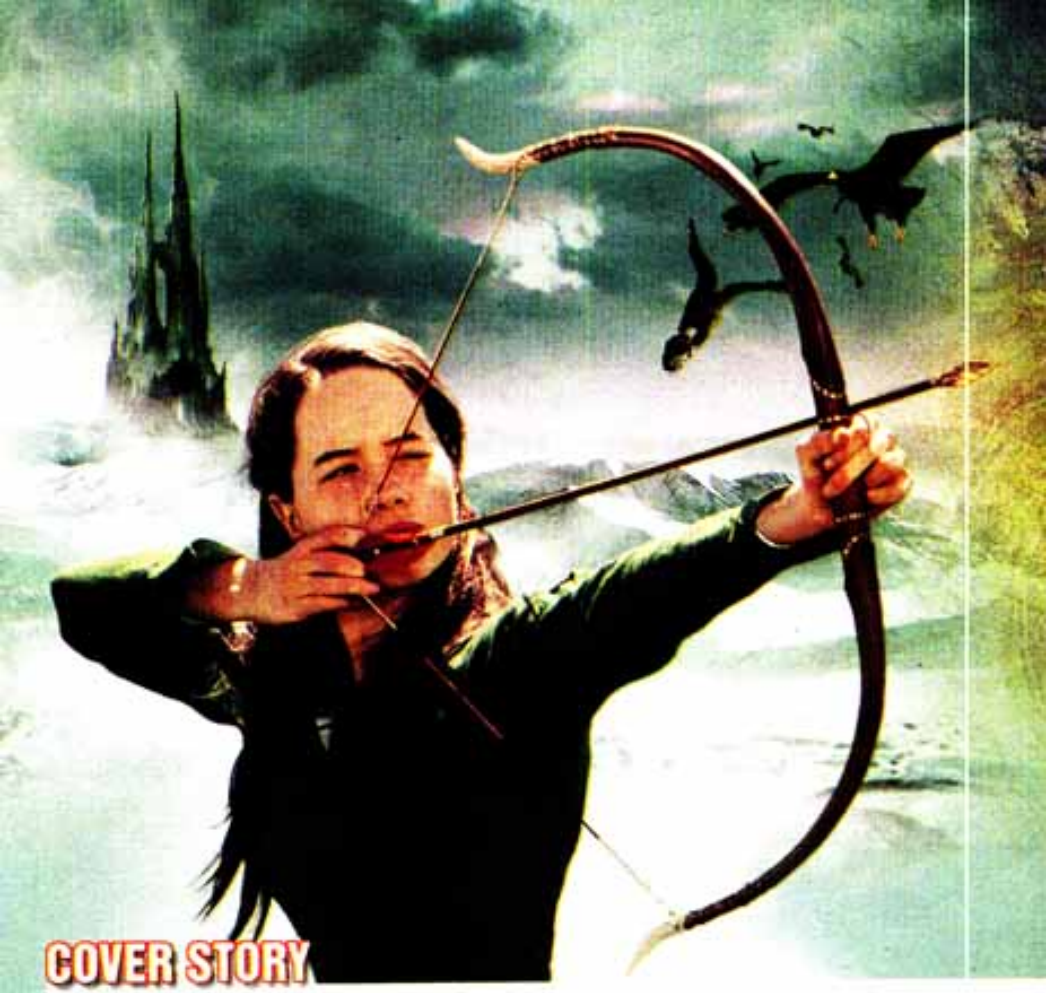
...

"Bring her back. Please bring her back," the zamindar begged.

"Who has set this pool of water here?"

"Pool of water?" the maid behind her hissed. "What pool of water? Go on, child, or they'll think you've lost your wits."

"No, no," Surangini cried. "It is a pool of water. I can see myself quite clearly. Look, look it is a pool of water."

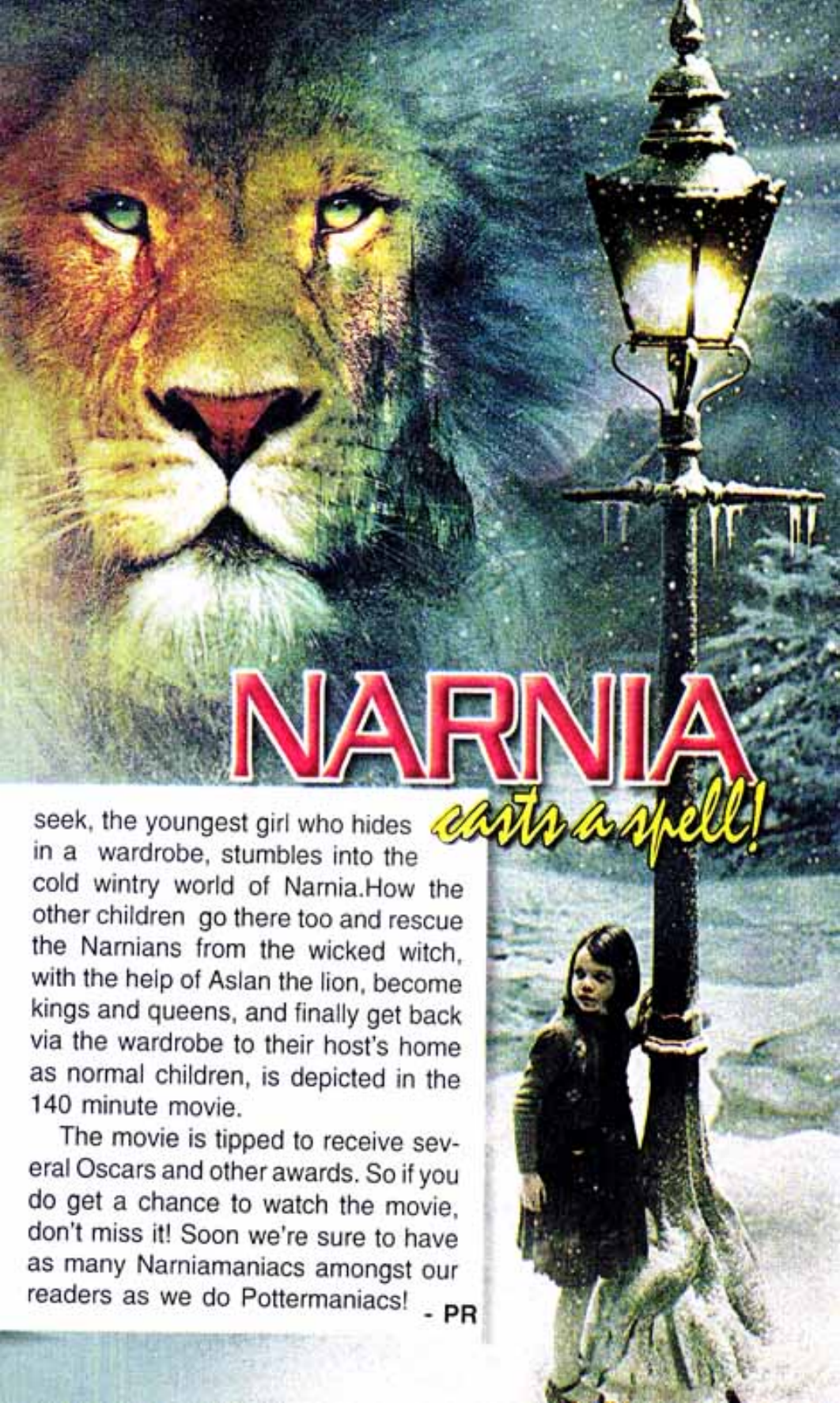


COVER STORY

The exams are over. Time to enjoy. Enter the fascinating world of NARNIA. In Disney Pictures, Chronicles of Narnia, the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, one gets transported (along with the four children) to Narnia.

For those of you who were disappointed with the portrayal of Potter Movies, this film is a 'must see'. Read the book by CS Lewis (if you have not already) and discover the wonders of Narnia magic. In fact Lewis wrote the series for his goddaughter who is the youngest character in the book. When you read the book (or watch the movie) you'll find yourself getting sucked into the plot, becoming one with the characters. Aslan, the lion and all the helpful animals, the witch and her horrible castle are so well depicted that you can't help but feel a part of Narnia.

During the Second World War, four siblings are sent to a village to stay with an author. While they are playing hide and



NARNIA casts a spell!

seek, the youngest girl who hides in a wardrobe, stumbles into the cold wintry world of Narnia.How the other children go there too and rescue the Narnians from the wicked witch, with the help of Aslan the lion, become kings and queens, and finally get back via the wardrobe to their host's home as normal children, is depicted in the 140 minute movie.

The movie is tipped to receive several Oscars and other awards. So if you do get a chance to watch the movie, don't miss it! Soon we're sure to have as many Narniamaniacs amongst our readers as we do Pottermaniacs! - PR

Pioneering Physician!

'April' borns are teased as fools. However, the medical genius, William Harvey was born on April 1, 1578.

Harvey was born and brought up in Folkstone; the coastal town of England. Even as a child, he was deeply interested in blood that oozed out from wounds. He was a quick and eager learner. After his schooling he graduated from Cambridge. Harvey's interest in medical and anatomical studies were developed at the college.

To pursue his career in medicine, William went to the University of Padua in Italy. He took great interest in animal dissection. At leisure, he would stroll around a crowded market place and buy freshly caught fish for dissection. During such observations, Harvey discovered that blood flows through a continuous circuit.

After his graduation, William obtained a license to practise medicine. He was appointed to the reputed Bartholomew's hospital by the college of physicians. He was a friend to his patients. At the age of 26, William got married to a loving lady, Elizabeth Browne whose father was a physician to King James I. In need of dead bodies, Harvey used to stray out in the pitch dark of night with his assistants and secretly obtain carcasses from a nearby graveyard.

In 1628, at the age of 50, Harvey published his immortal book "Exercise concerning the motion of the heart and blood. He disproved Galen's theory that the blood in the veins flowed outwards from the liver. Before Harvey, no one had ever thought of a continuous stream of blood returning to its source. From 1639 to 1646, Harvey experienced many bitter moments. His friend, King Charles, was executed by the parliamentarians. He lost his wife. He was childless and suffered from gout, inflammatory arthritis. After publishing his book "Development in animals" he breathed his last. But medicine and humanity will remember him for ever.

- M.Sneha, Std.IX,
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LAUGH A WHILE CONTEST - 10

Looking forward to the summer vacations, eh? While you might love the sunny days ahead, mom is constantly warning you to "keep off the sun." Just imagine if there were to be no sun... only darkness all the time. Think... Then write an original funny story in not more than 350 words. Mention **'Laugh a While Contest-10'** on the envelope and send it to reach us latest by **20.4.2006.**

Send in you entries to :

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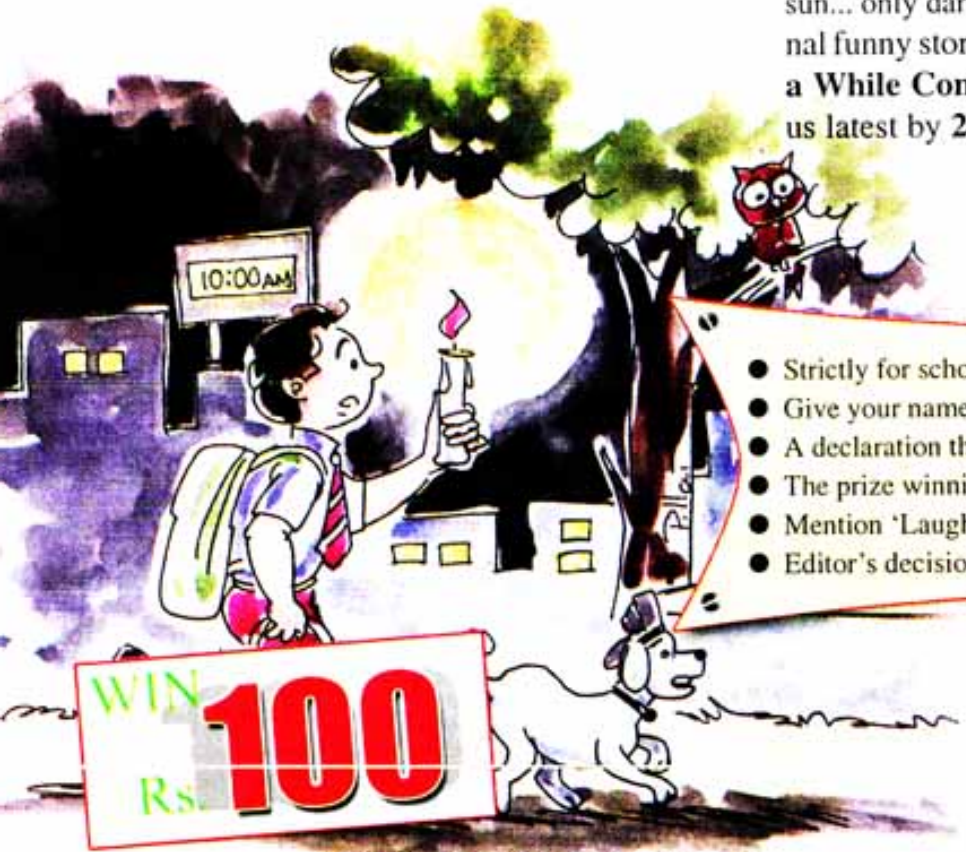
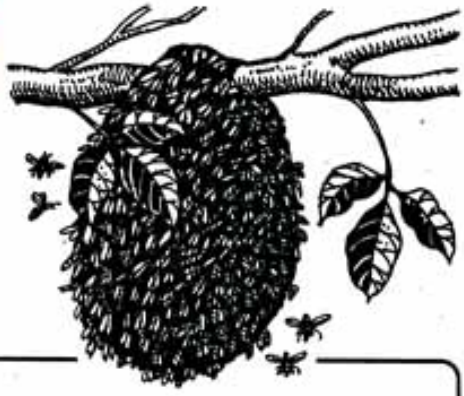


- Strictly for school going children.
- Give your name, school and residential address.
- A declaration that the story is your original creation.
- The prize winning entry will appear in the June 2006 issue of Gokulam.
- Mention 'Laugh a While Contest - 10' on the envelope.
- Editor's decision is final.

SWEET TREATS!

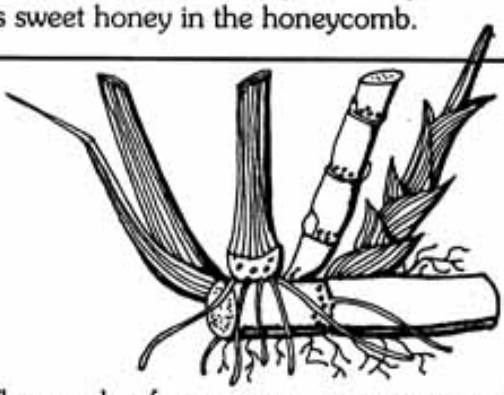
- Aazhi

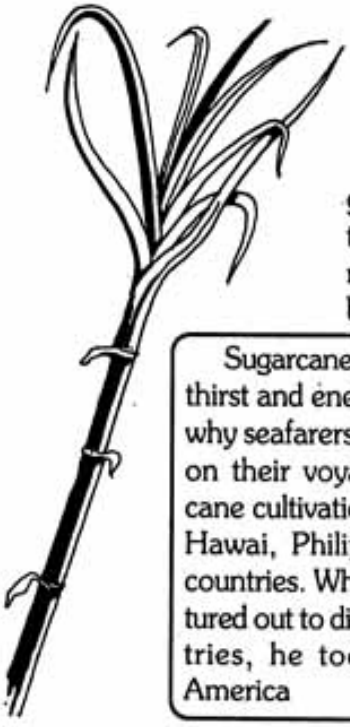


The earliest 'sweet' discovered by man was honey. Honey does not get spoilt and can last thousands of years.

To produce one kg of honey, a honey bee has to suck nectar from 50 lakh flowers. Honey bees fly around from flower to flower sucking nectar and store it in a bag in their food pipe. The nectar is processed in the food pipe and deposited as sweet honey in the honeycomb.

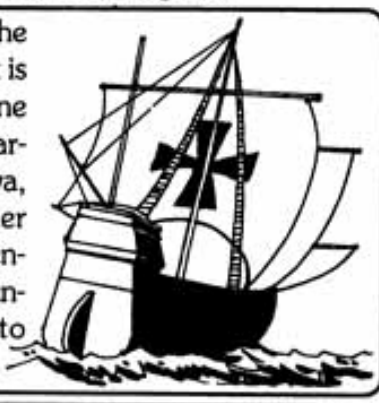
Sugarcane tops the list of sugar producing crops. Indians have been growing sugarcane from 2000 BC.





Thousands of years ago, sugarcane would grow wild in the forest. But Indians pioneered the art of cultivating sugarcane. Sugarcane is referred to as the 'sweet weed'. Like weeds and bamboo, sugarcane is also a grass.

Sugarcane juice quenches the thirst and energises too. That is why seafarers carried sugarcane on their voyages. Thus sugarcane cultivation spread to Java, Hawai, Philippines and other countries. When Columbus ventured out to discover 'new' countries, he took sugarcane to America

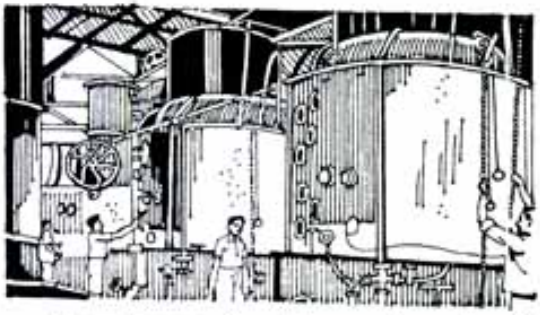


Every plant stores food in the form of fruit, vegetable or seed. The sugarcane plant stores its food (in the form of sugar) in its stem or cane.

90% of the cane is juice. The juice is nothing but sugar solution. This sugar is called sucrose. Sucrose is the scientific name for sugar.

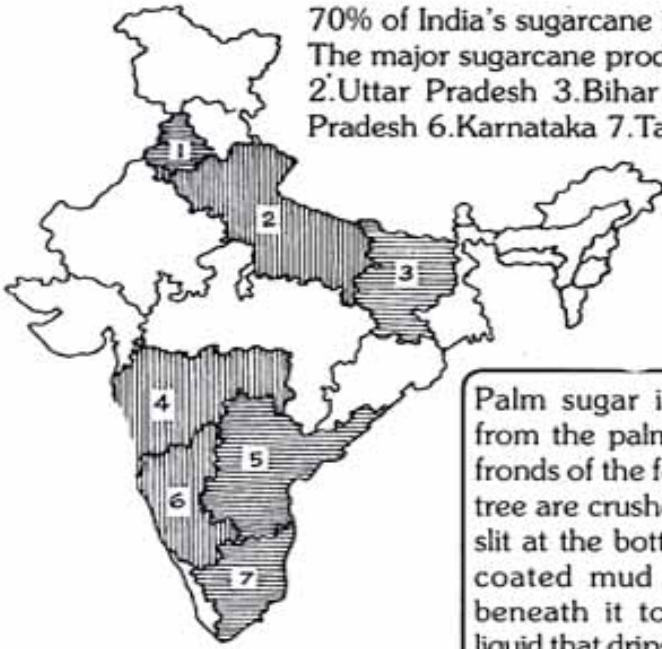
The cane is passed through machines to extract the juice. The juice is poured into a large cauldron and boiled. To prevent the juice from turning sour and to help neutralise acids, lime water is added while heating.

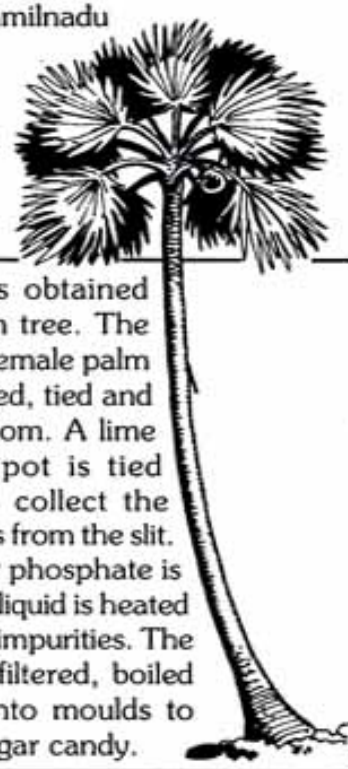
When the required consistency of syrup is obtained, it is poured into moulds. Upon cooling, moulded jaggery is obtained. Jaggery was also discovered in India.



How is sugar (crystal sugar) produced? Specified quantities of lime water and sulphur dioxide gas is passed through the sugarcane juice to make it colourless. The juice is then boiled to thicken it into a syrup. The syrup is spun in high speed centrifuges. After hot air is blown into the evaporated sugar syrup, crystal sugar is formed.

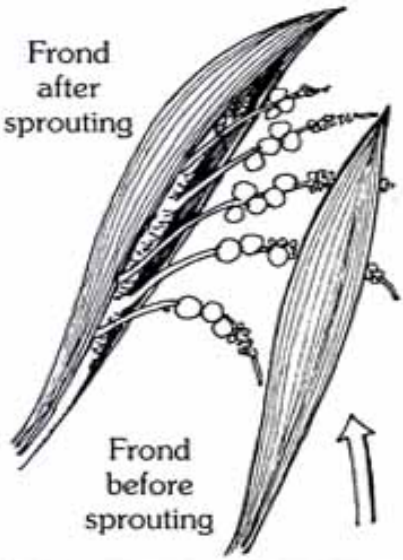
70% of India's sugarcane is cultivated in North India. The major sugarcane producing states are : 1.Punjab 2.Uttar Pradesh 3.Bihar 4.Maharashtra 5.Andhra Pradesh 6.Karnataka 7.Tamilnadu





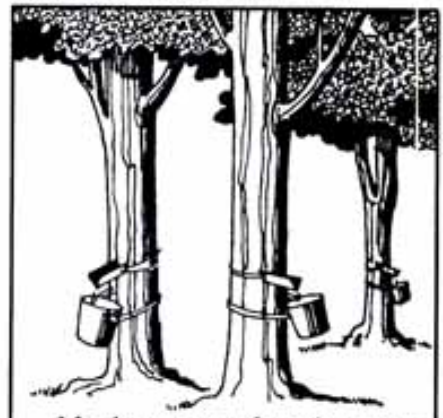
Palm sugar is obtained from the palm tree. The fronds of the female palm tree are crushed, tied and slit at the bottom. A lime coated mud pot is tied beneath it to collect the liquid that drips from the slit. Alum or super phosphate is added and the liquid is heated to remove the impurities. The liquid is then filtered, boiled and poured into moulds to make palm sugar candy.

Jaggery can also be obtained from the coconut tree. The process is similar to that of palm sugar. The fronds are readied before they sprout. 1/7th of the liquid obtained in this manner is sugar.



Cuts are made at the soft portion at the head of date palm leaves. The juice that drips from it is collected and boiled to make jaggery. 1/8th of the juice is sugar.

Sugar can be produced from beetroot too. Beetroot is finely chopped, Warm water is poured on it and sugar is extracted from it? The liquid is heated to produce crystal sugar. There is no difference between cane sugar and beet sugar!



Maple trees are found in many western countries. Like liquid rubber is collected from rubber trees, the juice of maple trees can also be collected. This maple juice is then boiled to produce sugar.

The stalk of sorghum plants is sweet (like sugarcane). In some countries, juice is extracted from the stalk boiled and made into syrup. Sugar forms 1/8th portion of the stalk.

Researchers in London have recently discovered that sugar can be produced from orange peels. Sugar from orange peels is several times sweeter than cane sugar. Even diabetics can consume this sugar

Saccharin used by diabetes patients, in lieu of sugar, is made from coal. It is 300 times sweeter than the sugar we use!

DISTANT FRIENDS!

Name : **K.Sukanya**
Age : 14
Address : B-25, Jalan Jati, Taman Bukit Kajang, 43000 Kajang, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia.
Hobbies : Reading, playing badminton and making friends.

Name : **M.M. Manu**
Age : 13
Address : Roll No.2006, Winter House, The Good Shepherd International School, Fernhill P.O., Palada Campus, Ooty.
Hobbies : Bird watching, reading and drawing.

Name : **Anoop Kumar Mishra**
Age : 14
Address : Roll No.3962, Maurya House, Sainik School Korukonda, Vizianagaram Dist. - 535 214.
Hobbies : Reading books, making friends, listening to western music.

Name : **Aditya Vikram**
Age : 7
Address : K-103, Palam Apartments, Bijwasan, New Delhi - 110 061
Hobbies : Playing cricket and helping others.

Name : **S.Kribhakshara**
Age : 11
Address : 46/56, I Floor, Ottavadai Street, Nammalvarpet, Chennai - 600 012.
Hobbies : Reading books and Gokulam, writing stories, watching cartoons, singing, playing carrom, gardening, making crafts, drawing, painting, glass painting, drama dialogue writing.

Name : **A.S. Kokila**
Age : 16
Address : 'Gokula', Behind Karigowda Residence, Krishna College Road, Hassan - 573 201.
Hobbies : Drawing, dancing, acting, watching TV and collecting pictures of Harry Potter and Thrisha (Telugu film actress).

Name : **C.Indivaram Tripathi**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Dear Readers,

• You may send in your contributions to **Gokulam** either by post or by e mail. (gokulam@kalkiweekly.com)

Remember to send in your details - **Name, Age, Class, Name and address of school, Residential address and a declaration stating that the contribution is your original creation. (Source must be mentioned wherever applicable.)**

We cannot guarantee publication of all your contributions nor is it possible to inform you about when it will be published. However, if you would like us to send it back on rejection, kindly enclose a stamped self - addressed envelope.

- Editor

PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE

If any of your creative contributions are published in **Gokulam** you will receive a **Participation Certificate**. (Letters and queries do not qualify). At the end of the one year period ending June 2006, the contributor who has collected the maximum number of certificates will receive a special prize.

Age : 15

Address : C/o Yogendra Sahai Shukla, 409/A, Meerpur Cantt. Railbazar, Kanpur, U.P.

Hobbies : Playing cricket, reading Gokulam, listening to music and watching TV.

Name : **M.Raksha**

Age : 13

Address : E/3, Gurupushyamrut, Vidyalaya Marg, Mulund (East), Mumbai - 400 081.

Hobbies : Reading books, surfing the net, chatting with friends, drawing, listening to music and singing.

Name : **Ambika Subash**

Age : 9

Address : 'Chithralayam Kacheri Road, Punalur, Kollam Dist., Kerala - 691 305.

Hobbies : Philately (collecting stamps), numismatics (collecting coins), writing letters, dancing (bharathanatyam), playing guitar.

Name : **K.Meghana**

Age : 12

Address : 'Krishna Nivas' House, Beeranthabail, Kasaragod - 671121

Hobbies : Reading Gokulam and other books, playing, singing, making friends, writing letters, gardening, painting, watching TV, playing mobile games.

Man at an interview

Employer : What made you leave your last job?

Candidate : Illness, sir!

Employer : Illness? What was the trouble?

Candidate : The management was sick of me, so they threw me out.

- V.Aishwarya, Bangalore

Judge : You have been arrested for driving the car at 95 km/hr on the wrong side of the road, without lights at 1.30 am. Have you got anything to say?

Convict : It was an emergency, your honour.

Judge : What was the emergency?

Convict : It was a stolen car.

- Aman Kumar, Bando

STEP BY STEP!

Father : Doctor, my son hurt himself in the lift.

Doctor : Don't worry! I will cure him step-by-step!

- K.P.Gowtham, Chennai.

A thief robbed everything. While he was leaving the house, the child woke up and said, "Take my school bag also, or else I will wake up mom and dad!"

- D.Sujan, Hyderabad

TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR!

Many of us will be celebrating New Year's day in April. Here are some festive delights. Try them out!

REFRESHING DRINK

Ingredients :

50 to 75 gms of jaggery, 2 spoons of sugar. 2 glasses of water. 1 lemon. Pepper and salt to taste.

Method : Put the jaggery into the water and stir till the jaggery dissolves completely in water. After stirring, add two spoons of sugar. Cut the lemon into two. Squeeze the lemon into the water and stir. Add a little pepper and salt and refrigerate. Serve cool.

- S.Jatan Mehta,
Std.VIII,
Subbiah M.H.S.S.,
Tirupur

FESTIVE RICE (Sweet)

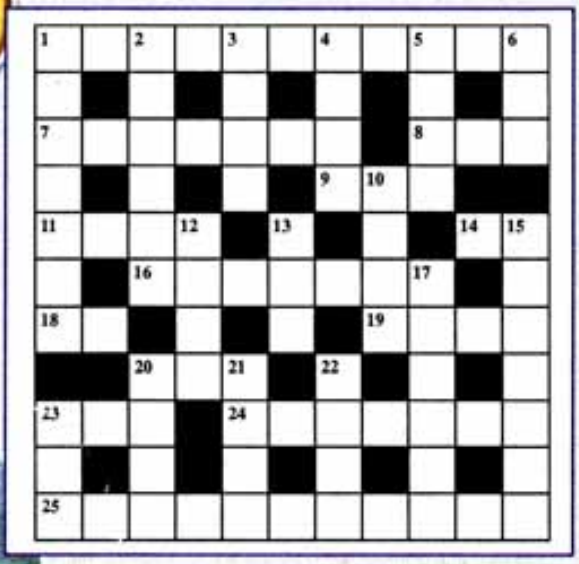
Ingredients : Basmati rice - 2 cups, Sugar - 2 cups, Fresh or dried coconut - 1 small piece, Cardamoms - 4 (crushed), Cloves - 4, Cinnamon - 5 cms, Almonds - 15-20, Raisins - 2 tbsp., Ghee - 4 tbsp. Yellow colour - a pinch.

Method : Wash and soak rice for atleast 1 hour. Cut almonds into thin long pieces. Cut the coconut into small pieces. Bring 1½ cups water with 2 cups sugar and cardamoms to a boil. Keep the sugar syrup aside.

Heat ghee, add cloves, cinnamon, coconut, almonds and raisins. Fry for ½ minute. Add rice. Add 2½ cups water. Bring to a boil. Add yellow colour. Cook on low heat till the rice is almost done. Strain sugar syrup into the rice. Mix gently. Continue to cook on low heat till the rice is done and the syrup evaporates. Serve hot.

- V.Revathi, Chennai

10 KRISH CROSS



1. 1st April, dedicated to every idiot! (3, 5, 3)

7. Topmost Army Officer is not very particular. Will enlarge differently (7)

8. Wastepaper receptacle; pen's writing tip reversed (3)

9. Still, you may find it in scary E.T. (3)

11. Shoe, to kick-start com-

puter operation? (4)

14. 'Night to Tony Blair (1, 1)

16. Pertaining to numbers and not so nice rum (7)

18. Morning sees mother in retreat (1,1)

19. Sounds like a speech, but only face powder (4)

20. Look! Don't mistake it for ocean! (3)

23. A friend in rugged Alp (3)

24. Ten and Russian currency may land you in a big difficulty (7)

25. Lion-hearted prince, this Indian cricketer proved in Pakistan (6)

Clues Down

1. Branch of maths a garble of x, y & z? (7)

2. It is U.K.'s Capital. Okay? (6)

3. Belongs to us; could be sour (4)

4. White aquatic flower; sounds like ex-Aussie paceman (4)

5. What is owed-from bed rising for ten? (4)

6. Japanese currency, a craving for (3)

10. To exude and discharge, during time out (4)

12. Thin cylindrical, metal or glass pipe-you bet differently (4)

13. Busy insect with a queen in a hive (3)

15. For his play, Shakespeare met Bach perhaps (7)

17. Chemical element in coal/diamond; could be a copy (6)

20.East European, something less than a slave (4)

21. Active Volcano in Sicily, makes a neat turn (4)

22. No gain when you look on board a ship (4)

23. Yap back to get salary! (3)

Note : 1. Some clues are straight definitions, others are cryptic with hidden meaning!

2. Watch out for anagrams - jumbling of words, to solve clues.

- Devised by A.Krishnaswamy

ENTRY FORM

Name : (Mr/Ms) .....

Age : ..... Class .....

School : .....

*Residential Address : .....

.....Pin .....

Signature : .....

* Local address is a must for overseas entries.

The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

• Strictly for school going children • Five lucky winners will get a cash award of Rs.50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. • Entries with completed grid on reverse accepted on this form only • No xerox copies. **Last Date : 12.4.2006**

Congratulations!

The five lucky winners are:

1. Venkat, The Frank Anthony Public School, Bangalore

2. S.Srinath, SVBM School, Kulithalai

3. Varun Krishnan, Modern Era Convent, Janakpuri

4. Madhuvanthi, DAV Public School, Pune

5. M.Ananjay, Smt. Sulochanan Devi Singhania School, Mumbai

Solution to Krish Cross - 9

1 B	O	2 T	A	3 N	Y	■	4 C	5 O	O	6 K
E	■	R	■	E	■	■	■	L	■	A
7 L	E	A	D	E	8 R	■	9 S	I	G	N
L	■	I	■	10 D	E	N	■	V	■	P
■	11 A	N	G	L	E	■	12 M	E	N	U
13 C	■	■	■	14 E	N	15 D	■	■	■	R
16 A	U	17 N	T	■	18 T	I	G	19 E	R	■
N	■	I	■	20 L	E	G	■	R	■	21 I
22 C	A	G	E	■	23 R	E	G	R	E	T
E	■	H	■	■	■	S	■	O	■	C
24 R	A	T	H	■	25 S	T	A	R	C	H

CHEMISTRY OF LAUGHTER!

State : Laughter exists in gaseous state.

Types : Laughter may be of many types. The most important types are : Bumper (ha, ha, ha) and suppressed Bumper (he, he, he).

Occurrence : It can be traced in the back benches of a class room. It may also be found sometimes in the stern faces of teachers. It can occur in both free and combined state.

Preparation : It can be prepared by being attentive to slight fluctuations in the class or a deviation from usual attire.

Equation : Back bench + Funny Question = Laughter.

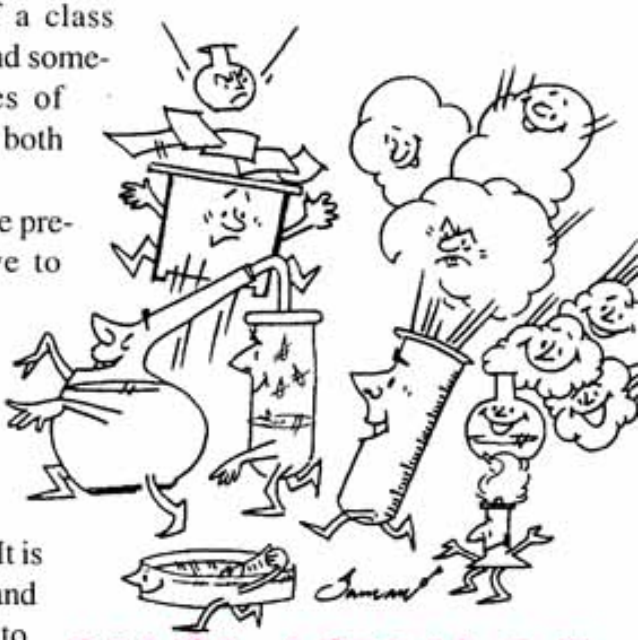
Physical Properties : It is infectious. It is odourless and colourless. It tastes sweet to the person who prepares it, but may be sour to others.

Chemical Properties : When combined with noise it produces scolding. Laughter + Noise = Scolding. If mischievous students are added as catalyst, the reaction may go a step further resulting in a "Get out" as the product.

When produced in abundance it produces a high temperature in teachers. When "boiling hot scolding" is added to laughter it produces a new substance called "Tears".

Laughter + Hot scolding = Tears.

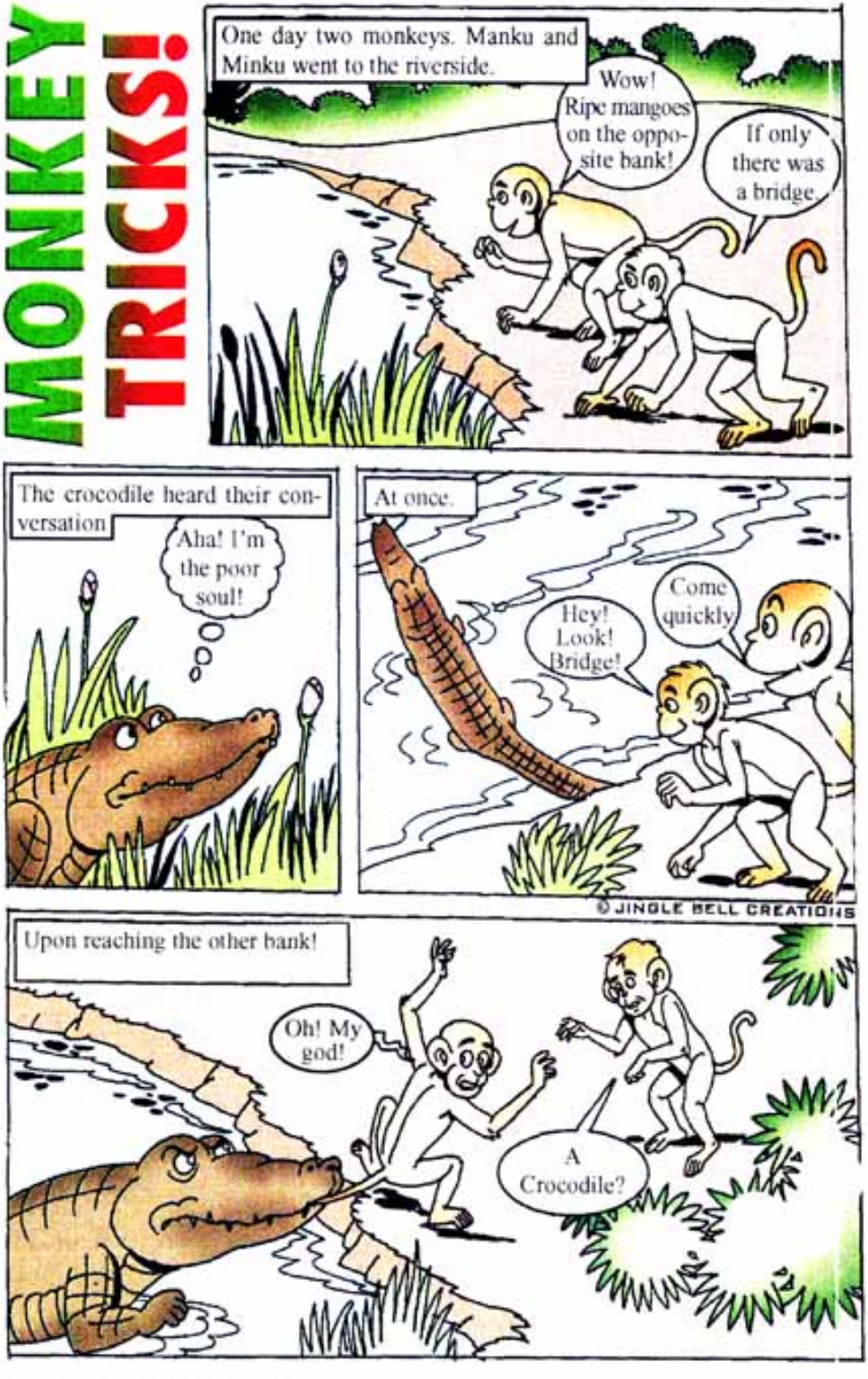
Use : It is used to drive boredom out of the class and makes the class interesting.

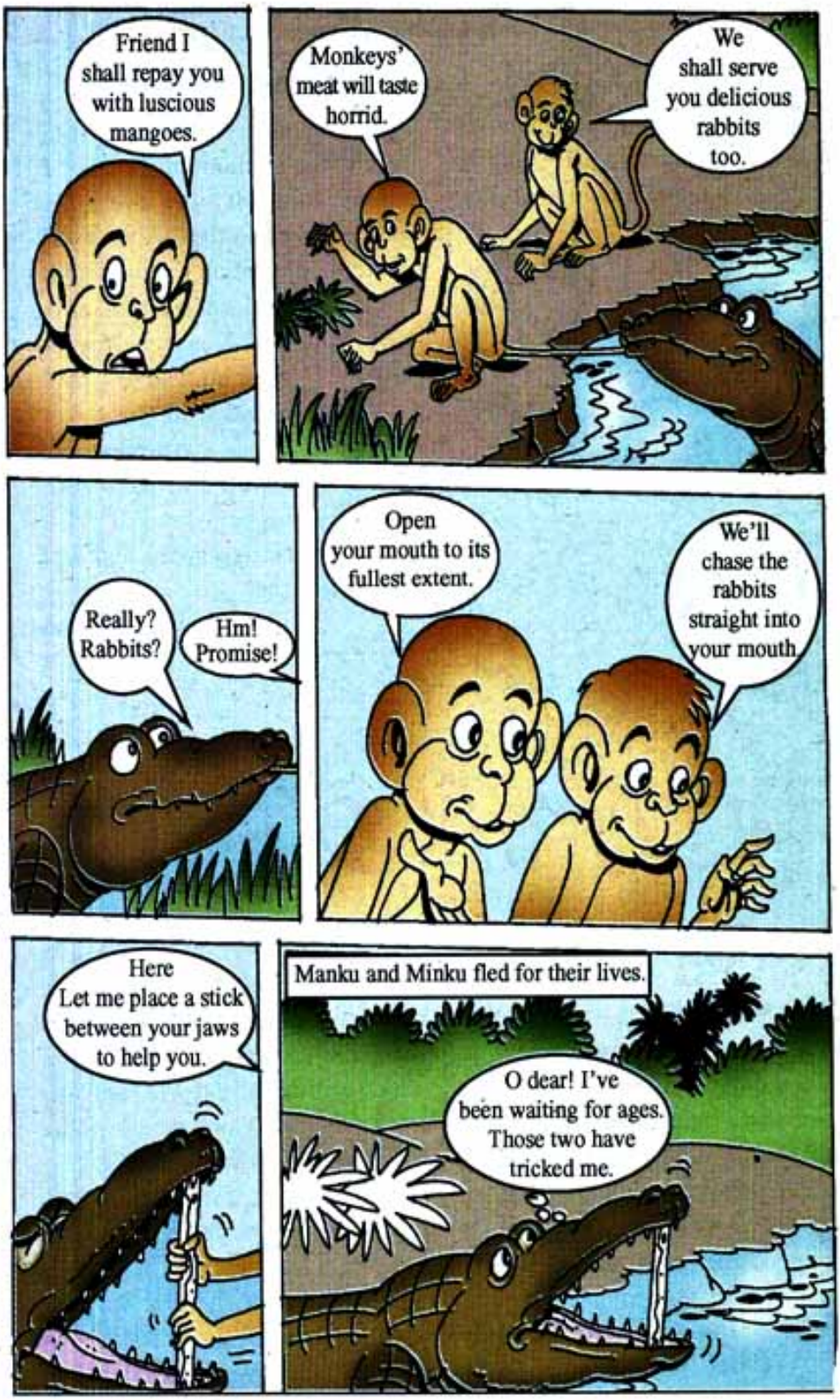


Test for presence of laughter: This can be detected by noise, appearances of teeth or some mischievous expressions.

- Tanushree Krishna

MONKEY TRICKS!




Friend I shall repay you with luscious mangoes.
Monkeys' meat will taste horrid.
We shall serve you delicious rabbits too.
Really? Rabbits?
Hm! Promise!
Open your mouth to its fullest extent.
We'll chase the rabbits straight into your mouth
Here Let me place a stick between your jaws to help you.
Manku and Minku fled for their lives.
O dear! I've been waiting for ages. Those two have tricked me.

HORRORS!

Salt and Chilly!

Two years ago, my maternal uncle came to visit us. He said he would teach me swimming. We have a private pond and I was eager to learn. After practising for an hour we came out to change. I then rushed to watch T.V. My sister suddenly cried out that there was a 'black thing' on my back. She looked closely at it and screamed that it was a leech. She sprinkled salt on it and after a while it fell off my back. To prevent infection, my mom applied green chilly paste. I screamed and ran around with pain. It was a terrible experience.

- Tania Das, Std.IX, Holy Child High School, Sikhar

Downslides!

I had gone to 'Shangrilla Water Resort' for a school picnic, when I was 9 years old. It was a lovely place with pools and water slides everywhere. I enjoyed all the mini slides and pools. I was not a swimmer but still I enjoyed myself. After sometime I met a friend who was a very good swimmer. She asked me to try the higher slides. I reluctantly agreed and went with her.

Only when I reached the top did I know how tall the slides were. There were three slides each next to the other. Floats were used for the slides and the third one, which was the tallest, was for swimmers. My friend took me down that one. I felt sick. I was very scared of heights. Neither did my friend nor the guide know that I was not a swimmer. I came down with great speed and went directly into the pool. I was nearly drowned. I got up with difficulty. Water had entered my

nose and mouth and I was breathing heavily. But just then a float occupied by two people came with great speed from the nearby slide. It hit me on my back and I fell in again.

This time I could not get up. After a few minutes my friend rescued me. I was badly shaken, some teachers gave me warm milk and I felt better. It was a horrifying experience.

- Swathi Harinarayanan,
Std.VIII, St. Mary's Convent High School,
Mumbai

Knowledge is Forever

Once my closest friend Prakash invited me to his birthday. They are very rich. He had given me a special invitation because I was his dearest friend. I was also a competitor in class. Everybody presented gifts to Prakash, but I had brought a small gift. If was an issue of gokulam he picked it up and started reading it at once. But his aunt snatched it away and placed it on the table. She presented a bracelet worth Rs.5000/- to him. After a few days he went to a village and lost the copy of Gokulam and the bracelet too. When he returned his aunt enquired about the bracelet and rebuked him for having lost it. He soon forgot about it (bracelet), but he still remembers what he read in Gokulam. I now understand why it is said that knowledge cannot be stolen by anyone. It lives for ever

- P.Dinesh Kumar,
Hyderabad

Shivaguru and Aryamba, performed great tapas after their marriage. Lord Shiva Blessed them with a brilliant child Shankara! Infact the Lord himself was born as Shankara in a village called Veliyanad near Kalady.

When Shankara was merely six, the divine child had accomplished the phenomenal task of composing his first book. Shankara lost his father when he was four. On a dwadasi day, while Shankara the brahmachari went from house to house seeking alms, a poor lady parted with all her food consisting of a single 'amla'. Moved by her selflessness. Shankara composed the Kanakadhara Stotram. Goddess Lakshmi showered wealth on the poor lady. Even at this tender age, kings and great men sought to coverse with him.

At the age of eight, Shankara sought permission from his mother to take up Sanyas. Shankara was bathing in the river when a crocodile caught his leg. Shankara called out to his mother who came running. Shankara informed her that his life was in danger unless he took up sanyas. His mother had to relent.

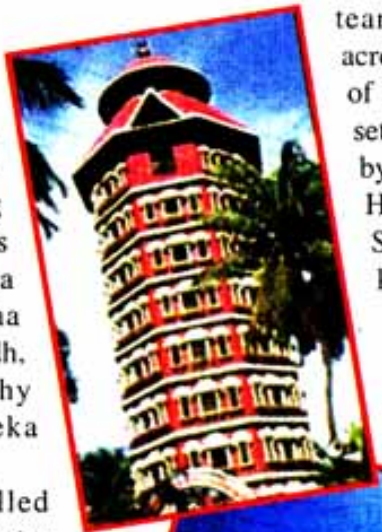
The determined child travelled alone from Kerala to Madhya Pradesh on foot, not knowing where or when his next meal would be. He met his

ADVAITA

Guru, Govinda Bagwathpada at Narmadeshwar.

Upon completion of his studies, Shankara with the blessings of his Guru, took upon himself the monumental task of writing Bhaashyas (commentaries) on the Vedantic texts such as the Bhagawad Gita, Upanishads and Brahma Sutras. Shankara's commentaries on the

above texts, are an authority to all seekers of Moksha. He then went on to compose inspiring original works such as Bhaja Govindam, Atma Bodh, Tatva Bodh, Dakshinamoorthy stotram, Viveka choodamani etc.



He travelled across the country four times convincing people with his clarity on vedanta through discussions, debates etc. He was an orator par excellence. He established spiritual centres and formed teams to continue his work across the country. The vision of Shankara was such that he set up and renovated temples by the borders of the nation. He had set up Mutts in Sringeri, Badri, Puri, Dwaraka and Kanchi. These mutts even today are headed by a Shankaracharya each. Thus the cultural heritage was preserved. His followers

INSTITUTION!

included kings, scholars, thinkers, etc. By the time he was thirty two years old, Shankara had single handedly revived Hindu culture and brought 75 different schools of thought under his Advaita philosopy, had completed his mission in life. Shankara was not a mere personality he was an institution.

- M. Sowmya, Std.VIII,
T.V.S.L.M.H.S.S., Madurai

Dr.G. GANESAN

KEEP AN EYE!

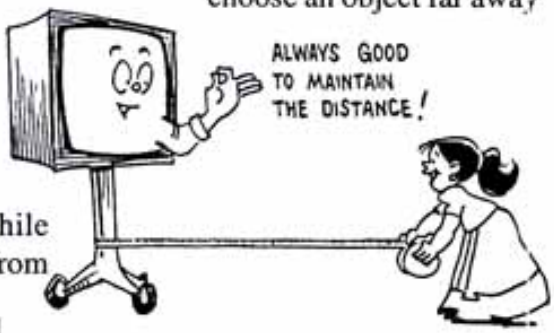
● **Himanshi Sahu, Korba**

? When I watch TV or study continuously I get headache. Please suggest some exercises?

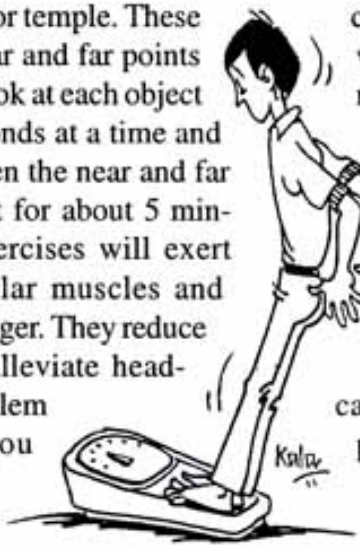
! You seem to be suffering from eye strain. It is a common problem that can occur after the eyes are taxed for a prolonged period like when you, watch TV and read books continuously, after hours of close work like sewing, knitting etc. You can reduce eyestrain by taking simple precautions. Hold the reading material about 30 to 40cms away from your eyes. Ensure that you have adequate light. Take a break every hour by looking at distant objects for three or four minutes. While watching TV, avoid viewing from an angle. Sit in front of the set at a reasonable distance about four or five times the width of the TV screen. Take occasional breaks from the screen and relax your eyes by looking at a distance for a few minutes.

There are two good exercises to alleviate eye strain. The first one: Pretend that you are looking at the center of a giant clock face straight ahead. Keeping your head in the same position all the while, look up as far as possible towards the 12 O' clock position for 2 seconds. Then return to the center. Next, do it for 1 O' clock position, then 2 O' clock and so on. Always go back to the center before moving on to the next hour. When you have finished one clockwise cycle, do an anticlockwise cycle.

The second one : Choose a particular object e.g., a chimney or tree at least 20 feet away from you and choose an object far away



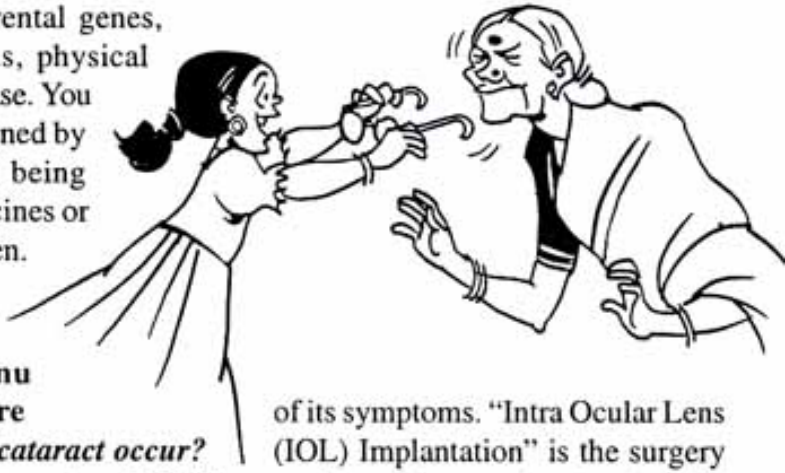
e, g., a building or temple. These will be your near and far points respectively. Look at each object for about 2 seconds at a time and alternate between the near and far objects. Repeat for about 5 minutes. These exercises will exert your extra ocular muscles and make them stronger. They reduce eyestrain and alleviate headache. If the problem presists, you should consult an ophthalmologist.



- **Srinath Mahesh, New Delhi**

? I am 5'8" tall but am very thin and weigh only 45 Kgs. I feel very bad when everybody comments about my health. Please help.

! Height and body growth are determined by parental genes, nutritional status, physical activity and disease. You need to be examined by a doctor before being put on any medicines or treatment regimen. Consult a physician.



- **B.N.Anuradha, Bangalore**

? How does cataract occur? What are the symptoms? Will cataract surgery have side effects?

! There is a transparent structure present inside each eye called the crystalline lens. We see objects when the lens allows the light rays to pass through it to get an image of the objects on the retina situated behind it. As we grow older and older, its transparency slowly degenerates. Hence it becomes opaque. Now the light rays cannot pass through the lens properly leading to a gradual loss of vision. Development of opacity in the lens is called cataract. Heredity, malnutrition, certain drugs, radiation are some of the causes of cataract Initially vision becomes blurred. Intolerance to bright light, breaking of white light into coloured spectrum and finally loss of vision are some of its symptoms. "Intra Ocular Lens (IOL) Implantation" is the surgery performed to correct cataract. Malposition of IOL and secondary glaucoma are few side effects of this surgery, but rarely occur.

HOW AKBAR MET BIRBAL!

Here is an interesting story about how Akbar met Birbal.

One day Akbar and one of his ministers were walking down a market in Agra in the guise of merchants. Suddenly, their curiosity attracted them to a crowd. All of them were watching a cow perform. Its master made it do a lot of tricks and finally disclosed that it was a man in disguise. The crowd applauded and cried out, "It was a great show indeed!"

Akbar noticed that a young man beside him was not standing. He did not clap either when the crowd did. When the crowd dispersed, the young man picked up a small stone and threw it at the cow's leg. He saw the reaction of the cow. The man in cow's disguise twitched. Then the young man heartily applauded. He then moved away.

Akbar felt that his behaviour was odd. So he approached him. He went close to him and in a stern tone cried out, "Young

man, could you please tell me why you hurled the stone at that cow?

"The cow's tricks that the man performed were good and indeed required a lot of practise, I agree. But one sudden twitch the man in disguise performed was exactly like that of a cow and I applauded. That's all, Jahanpanah' said the young man.

"Oh, how....er... did you find out that I was Jahanpanah" said Akbar.

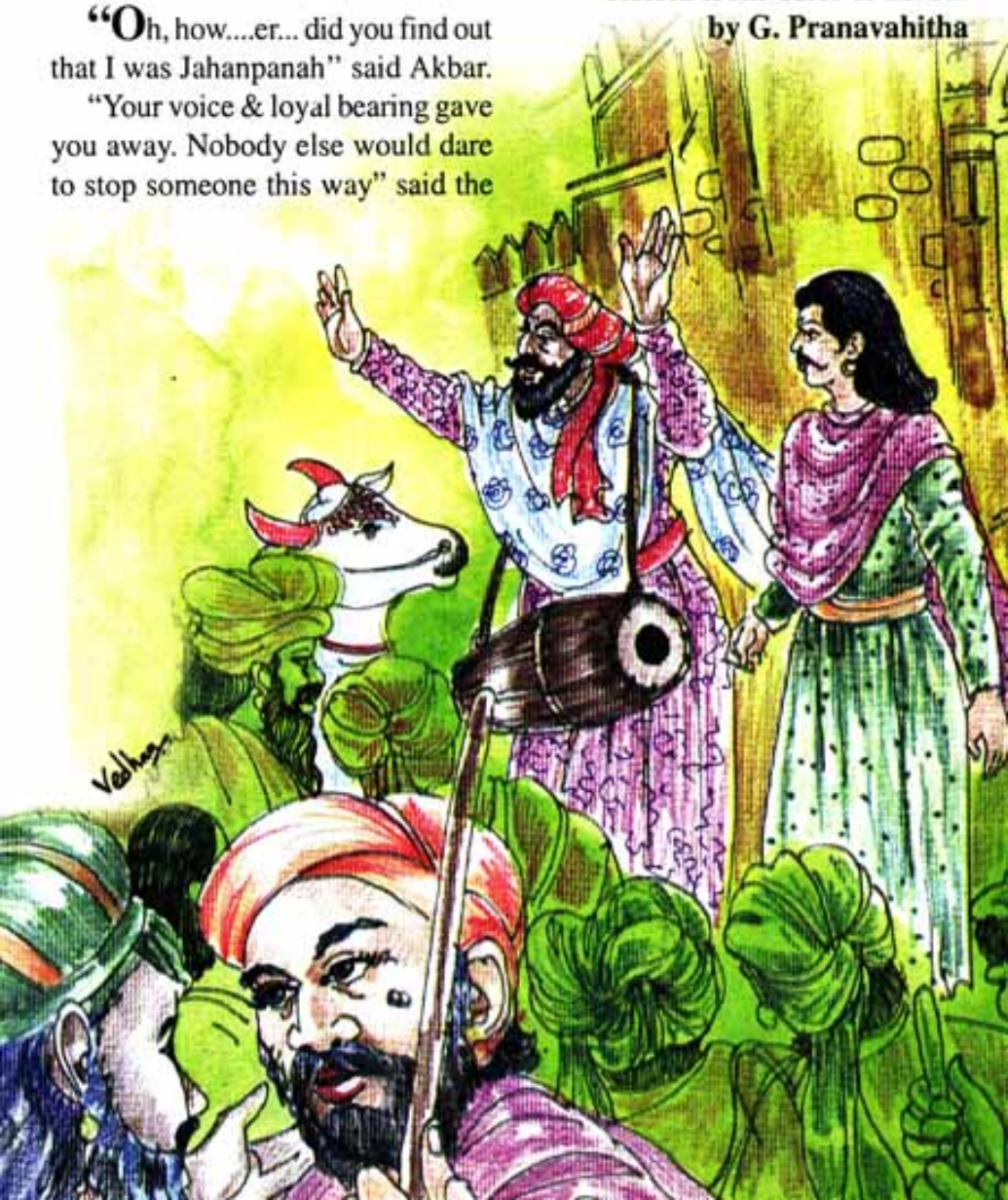
"Your voice & loyal bearing gave you away. Nobody else would dare to stop someone this way" said the young man.

"Excellent, young man, what is your name? Will you join my court as a minister?"

"Certainly Jahanpanah... my name is Mahesh Das" he said.

Now it was Mahesh Das who earned the title 'Birbal' with his amazing wit and wisdom.

- Retold from Tales of Birbal
by G. Pranavahitha



COPY CAT -

My ambition is to become a doctor. But my father says, that it would be very difficult for me and that I should be working very hard. I usually get second rank is class. What is your advice?

- R.Nagarajan, Guntakal

Dear Nagarajan,

You will be facing two problems. First, as your father said you will have to score high marks, particularly in the subjects which lead you to the professional course of your choice. Then there is the entrance test in which you will have to score much higher than the cut off marks. The second problem may be financial which your father has to overcome. Nowadays there are many private colleges offering medical or engineering courses. But the fees they charge are beyond the means of middle class families. Perhaps if you can get an educational loan and if you are sure you will be able to repay it while practising as a doctor, you may try convincing your father about it.

***

I don't like to show my answers to the students sitting besides me or behind me during exams. But this creates a misunderstanding between me and my friends. What shall I do?

- Subha Narayanan, Dombivli (E)

Dear Subha,

You are perfectly within your rights when you refuse to show your answer papers for them to copy. As you say, it may create hard feelings but you have to be strict. Apart from the danger of getting caught and being punished severely, it is unethical. Tell your friend that you don't want to lose her friendship but if it comes to a choice

between friendship and honesty you would rather choose the latter.

★★★

I am a lazy girl. Give me some quick, practical ideas to improve in maths, physics and English!

- Hage Omang, Tezu, Arunachal Pradesh.

Dear Hage,

The only practical idea to improve in any subject is to work hard, sincerely and tirelessly. There are no shortcuts in life. Laziness today will lead to misery tomorrow. After all, it is your future.

★★★

Dear Grandma,

I eat my lunch very slowly. My mother scolds me for this. How do I eat fast?

- P.Nellai Kumar, Coimbatore

Dear Nellai,

My grand son too takes a long time to finish his breakfast or lunch. As soon as he sits at the dining table, he starts day dreaming and his mother keeps on saying, "eat, eat, eat!" every five minutes! Another friend of mine finishes his three course dinner in just five minutes. Devoting more time is a waste, according to him!

Have you ever wondered why there is an interval of an hour for lunch at educational institutions and work places? When you eat, you must concentrate on the food and enjoy its taste. Eat small portions each time

and munch well before swallowing. This helps the saliva to act on the food. Thereafter, the gastric juices take over in the stomach. If you are thinking of something else while eating, the gastric juices will not be secreted properly. If you eat too fast, there will not be enough time for proper secretion of digestive juices. So, allot a minimum of thirty minutes for a good breakfast and about forty

FRIEND OR FOE?

minutes for lunch. After lunch rest for a while, so that sufficient blood flows through the stomach blood vessels helping digestion and absorbtion.

Love,
Grandmaworm

DHONI-

Tsunami
that hit the
Pakistanis!

GOKULAM
Poster

❶ WIRE

❷ CUSHION

❸ TROUBL

❹

work work work work
Talk work work work
work work work Talk
work work work work
work work work work
Talk work

I. BRAIN TEASERS

Here are a few brain teasers to sharpen your wits. Puzzle out the phrases and words hidden in these boxes.

For example, the first one is barbed wire.

Can you solve the rest?

- P. Sai Deepak,
Std.VIII, Sainik School,
Korukonda

II. BOOKS AND AUTHORS

(Who wrote these books?)

FIGURE'EM

❺

1. A Tale of Two Cities.
2. Conquest of Self
3. Moby Dick
4. Sunny Days
5. The Vendor of Sweets

- R.Kanimozhi,
Std.VIII, Sharadha
Matriculation School, Gingee

❻

PLANTATION

III. SOBRIQUETS

1. City of Golden temple
2. Land of Cakes
3. Holy land
4. Land of thousand lakes
5. Land of thunderbolt
6. Land of white elephants
7. Playground of Europe
8. Queen of the Arabian sea
9. Spice garden of India
10. Sugar bowl of the world

- S.Swarna Gowri,
Std.VIII, M.G.C.V.,
Trichy

IV. RIDDLES

1. What tools do we use in arithmetic?
2. What has one horn and gives milk?
3. What makes a road broad?
4. What can you break without touching?
5. What has a head but no brain?

- M.Varsha, Std.IV,
Holy Angels Mat. Hr. Sec.
School, Salem

Answers :

I. 2. Pin Cushion 3. No end to Trouble 4. Work more - talk less 5.'T' shirt 6. Tree plantation

II. 1. Charles Dickens
2. Mahatma Gandhi
3. Herman Melville
4. Sunil Gavaskar
5. R.K. Narayan

III. 1. Amritsar 2. Scotland 3. Palestine 4. Finland 5. Bhutan 6. Thailand 7. Switzerland 8. Kochi 9. Kerala 10. Cuba

IV. 1.Multi'pliers' 2.A Milk delivery van 3.The letter 'B' 4.Promise 5.A cabbage

"Tarun, I have been granted permission. You may come with me tomorrow".

Kumar announced with a smile, Tarun was overjoyed.

Kumar, a neighbor of Tarun, was a coal miner by profession. Tarun was longing to accompany him to coal mines. And the time had arrived.

Kumar and Tarun left at 5.00 a.m. the next day. Kumar took him to the canteen at the office, where they had tea.

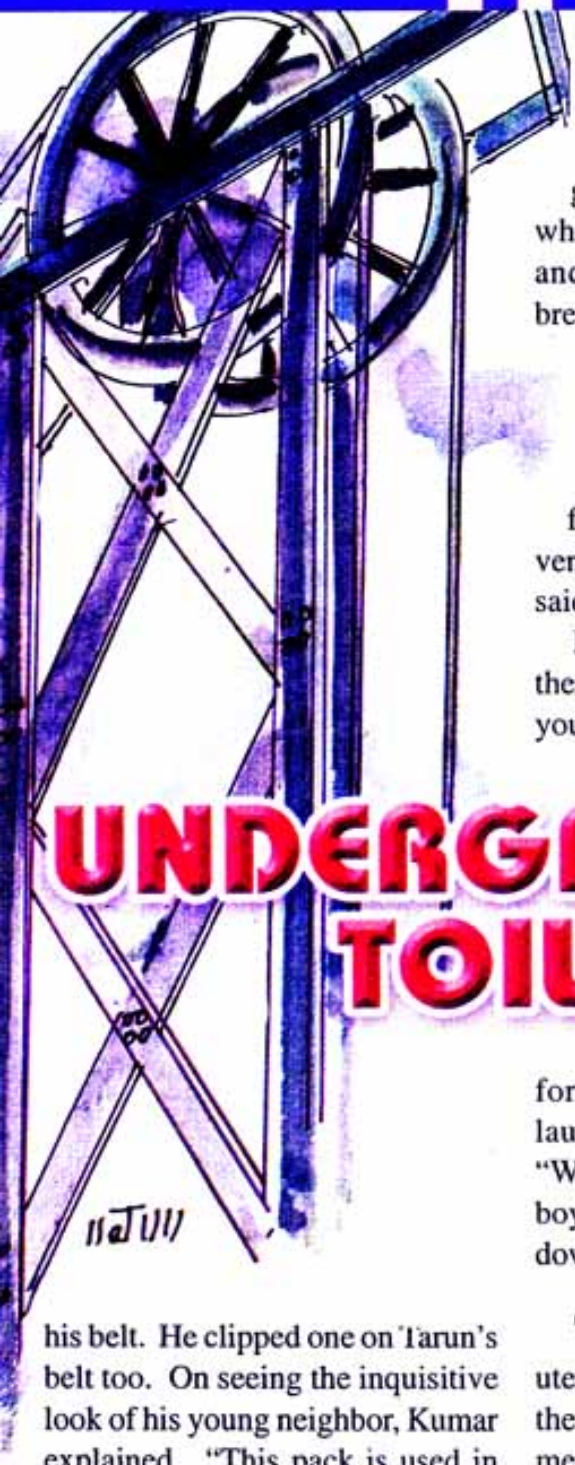
They then reached the site of the coal mine. They entered the locker room. There were two sides in the room. One was called 'clean side' and the other, 'dirty side'. Both of them kept their clothes in a locker on the clean side.

Kumar opened his locker on the 'dirty side'. He took out his overalls, a helmet and leather boots from the locker and put them on. Tarun was provided with a helmet. He was already wearing leather boots.

Kumar then collected the water bottle and filled it.. "There is nothing to drink underground, Tarun", said Kumar. "It is very warm in the pit. Our throats get parched dry from the coal dust".

Kumar was provided with a lamp. He checked whether the battery in it was fully charged.

Kumar clipped a 'self rescuer" on



UNDERGROUND TOILS!

case of emergency like fire or explosion. Such accidents would produce poisonous gases. This is a special mask which we should use for our nose and mouth so that we may not breathe this gas. The mask is effective for about an hour during which we may move to safety"

For the first time, Tarun's face turned pale. "Well. Any adventure has its share of risks", he said to himself.

Many other miners soon joined them. They were surprised to see a young boy amongst them. Kumar introduced Tarun to the others.

"We shall wait for the cage", said Kumar and laughed on seeing Tarun's face. "What? Feel like an animal? No boy. This cage is a lift to take us down to the mines", he explained.

his belt. He clipped one on Tarun's belt too. On seeing the inquisitive look of his young neighbor, Kumar explained. "This pack is used in

The cage came up after ten minutes. Around forty men entered the cage. It took them down 700 meters to the bottom of the shaft.

The lift slid fast. "Over ten times faster than an ordinary lift", explained Kumar.

The cage reached the bottom of the pit. Tarun stepped out along with the others.

On one side of the wide gallery, there was a conveyor belt. This carried coal to the shaft, ready to be taken up to the surface.

They waited for a manrider-another conveyor belt on which the miners are carried along the main gallery.

Well, it was not exactly a very comfortable ride for Tarun. He had to sit cramped. Also the belt bumped over the rollers underneath. The manrider stopped after sometime. Kumar and Tarun walked down. The height of the galleries became lower and narrower.

It was very warm down there. Kumar asked Tarun to wait at a particular spot, and he crawled forward to the place where the coal was to be cut.

The air was full of coal dust and the noise was deafening. A shearer was cutting coal. Kumar started operating the shear.

Tarun's hands felt the self rescuer in his belt and the thought of a possible accident chilled his spine. He now admired the miners for their grit.

Minutes passed by. It was an exhausting day. Kumar was tired. He and Tarun were covered in gritty coal dust.

Kumar and Tarun returned.. Kumar replaced his self rescuer on the shelf. He unclipped the lamp

On the 'dirty' side of the cloakroom, Kumar took off all his work clothes. He stepped under a shower. Clean and fresh, they started back to their homes.

Next day when Kumar saw Tarun, he smiled, extended his hand and said, "Would you mind shaking hands with a dirty fellow like me?". Tarun quickly replied, "Why not? It is indeed an honour" and eagerly shook the hands of his neighbour.

Child : Mummy, why is Delhi so important?

Mother : It is our capital child.

Child : Then, are we small letters?

Mother : Ulp, Ah!

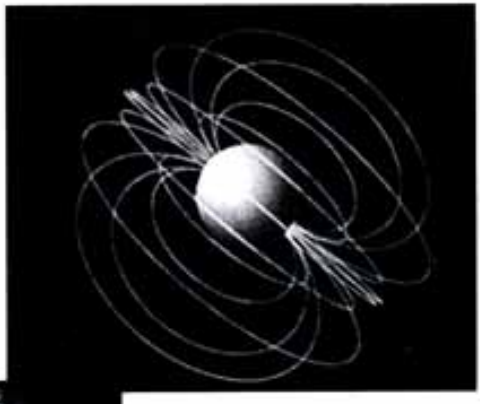
- R.Jeffry Copps, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Chennai

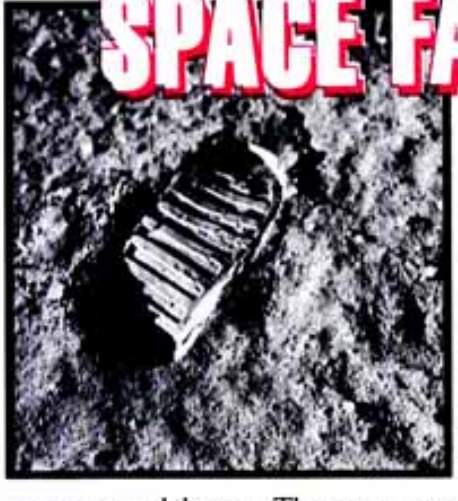
SPACE FACTS

Ganymede, one of Jupiter's 16 moons, is the largest moon in the solar system. It is twice as big as the planet Pluto.

Astronomers used to think that there existed a planet between mercury and the sun. They even gave the planet a name : Vulcan

Pulsars are stars that spin as fast as 1,000 times per second.





The temperature at the centre of the sun is 15.9 million degrees.

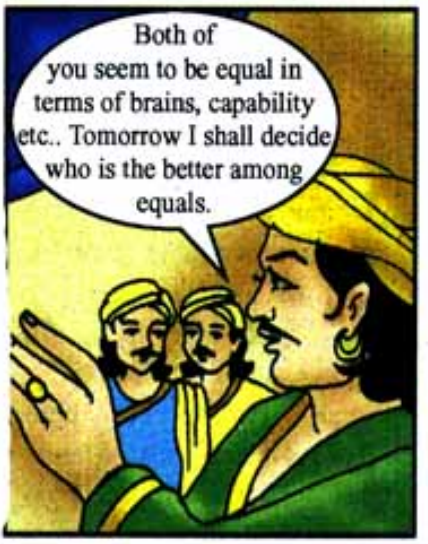
The largest volcano in the solar system is on mars called olympus mons, it is 17 miles high and covers more area than the state of Arizona.

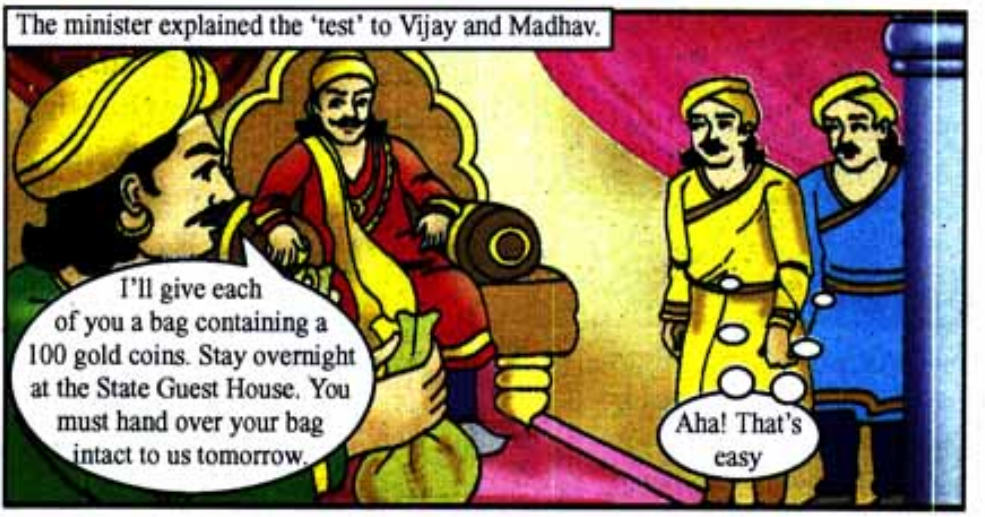
Footprints left by astronauts on the moon will stay there for millions of years because there is no wind on the moon to blow the footprints away.

- V.Pooja, Std.VIII, Our Own English High School, Dubai

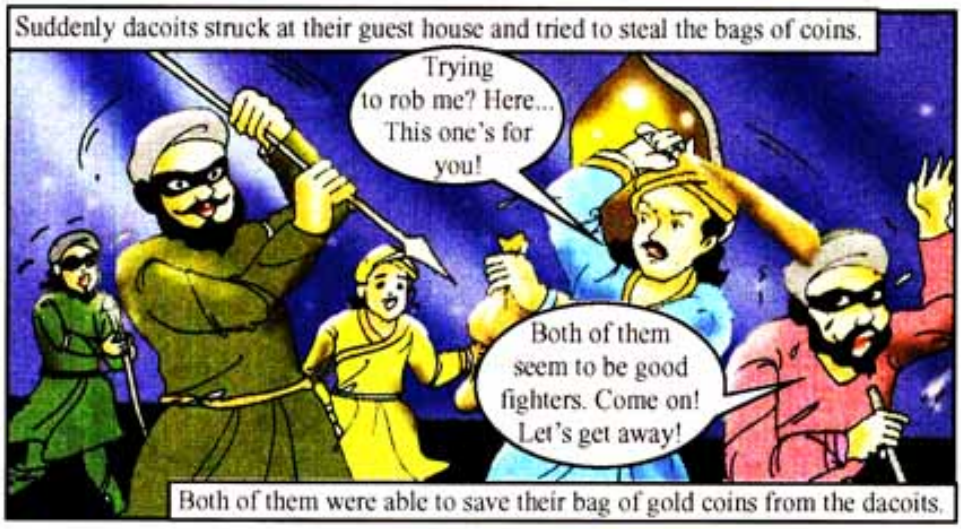
FINAL TEST

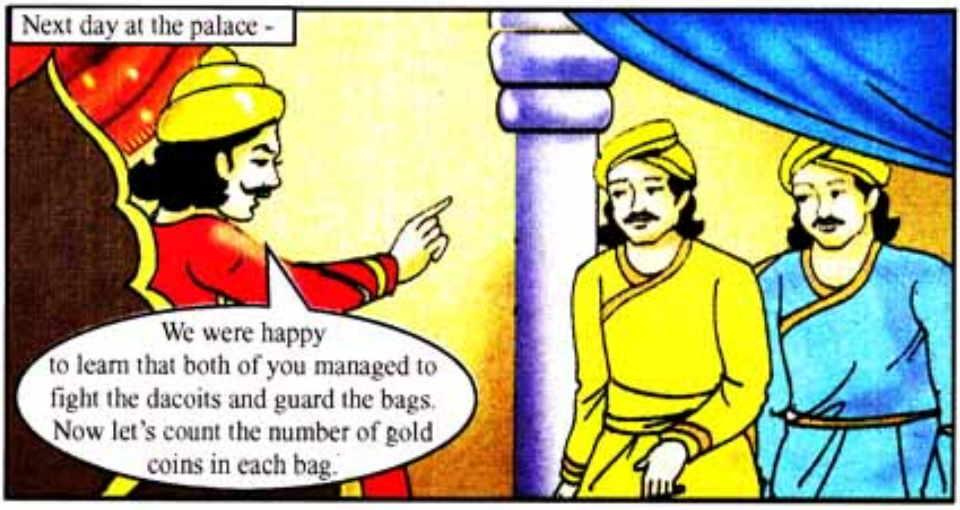
Story, Pictures : **Thangam**





Both of them took their bags and stayed at the guest house.
There must be something in this trial. Can't be such a simple task!


Suddenly dacoits struck at their guest house and tried to steal the bags of coins.
Trying to rob me? Here... This one's for you!
Both of them seem to be good fighters. Come on! Let's get away!
Both of them were able to save their bag of gold coins from the dacoits.

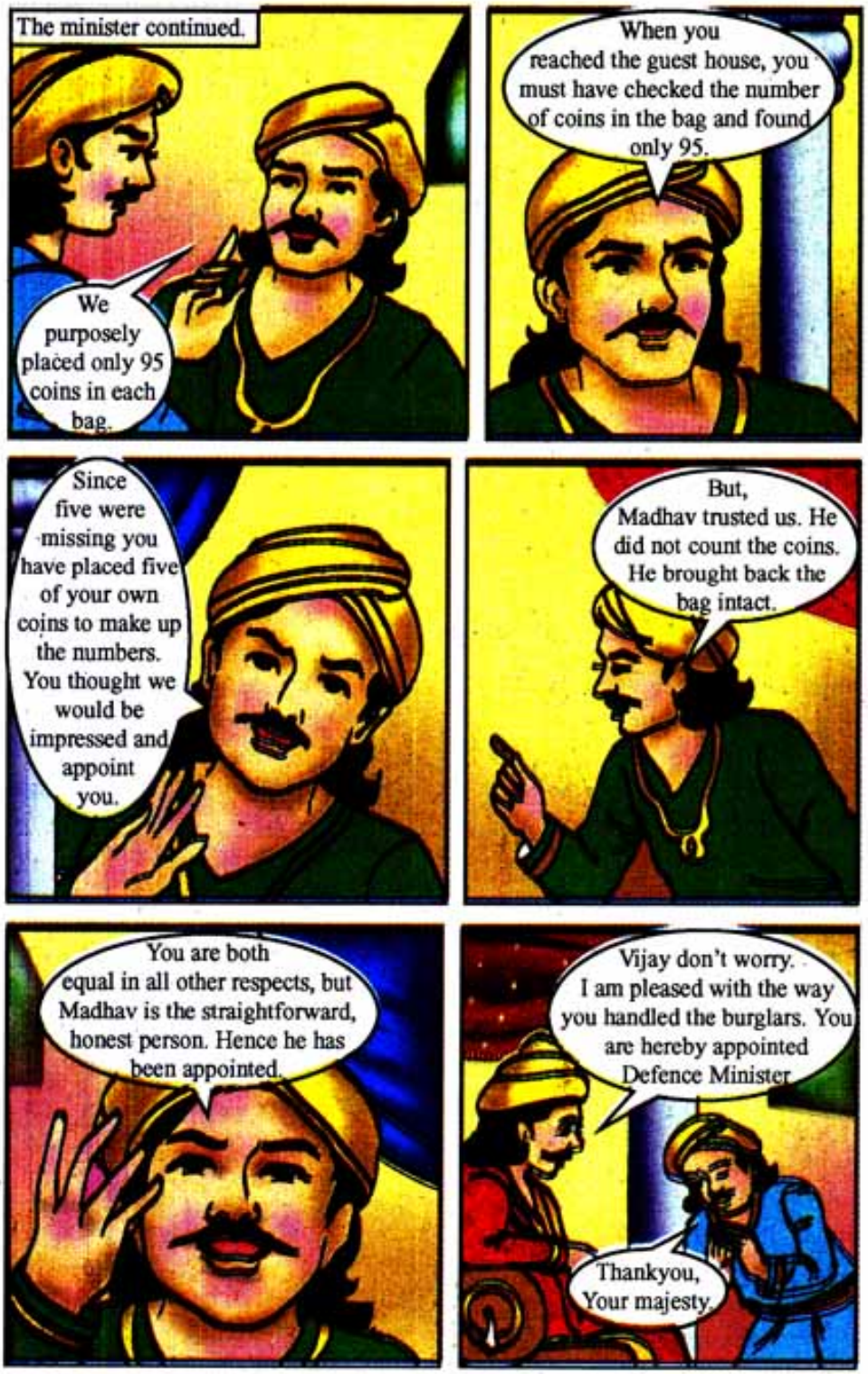

Next day at the palace -
We were happy to learn that both of you managed to fight the dacoits and guard the bags. Now let's count the number of gold coins in each bag.

The minister counted the gold coins in each bag.
King, Vijay's bag has 100 coins while Madhav's bag contains 95 gold coins.
O God! what happened to the five coins in my bag. I'm sure I guarded them.

The king announced his decision.
Madhav whose bag contained only 95 coins is hereby appointed Finance Minister.

O King! That's unfair. My bag was the one with all hundred gold coins intact. I should have got the post!

The minister stood up to explain.
True. Finance Minister should be capable and responsible. But he should be honest too.


The minister continued.
We purposely placed only 95 coins in each bag.
When you reached the guest house, you must have checked the number of coins in the bag and found only 95.
Since five were missing you have placed five of your own coins to make up the numbers. You thought we would be impressed and appoint you.
But, Madhav trusted us. He did not count the coins. He brought back the bag intact.
You are both equal in all other respects, but Madhav is the straightforward, honest person. Hence he has been appointed.
Vijay don't worry. I am pleased with the way you handled the burglars. You are hereby appointed Defence Minister.
Thankyou, Your majesty.

ARACHNE'S WEB

Long ago, in the city of Colophon, there lived a maiden called Arachne, who was so good at embroidery that people from all over came to see the beautiful tapestries she created with her needle. Her fellow citizens were so proud of her that they called her the best seamstress in the world.

Unfortunately, Arachne became extremely conceited. All the praise went to her head and she openly declared that she wished to challenge all her rivals including Goddess Minerva herself to a contest. She was talking to a large crowd in the marketplace and an old lady told her. "Dear child, remember pride goes before a fall. How can you, a mere mortal, challenge a goddess?" But Arachne haughtily turned her back on the old lady and walked away with her nose in the air.

"I warned you my dear", she heard a voice from behind and turning, she saw to her amazement, the wrinkled, bent lady change into a tall, queenly figure.

It was goddess Minerva herself. Silly Arachne! Instead of begging for pardon, she was filled with more pride because the goddess had descended from heaven to meet her.

"I'm ready to begin the contest" she said boldly. "What about you?"

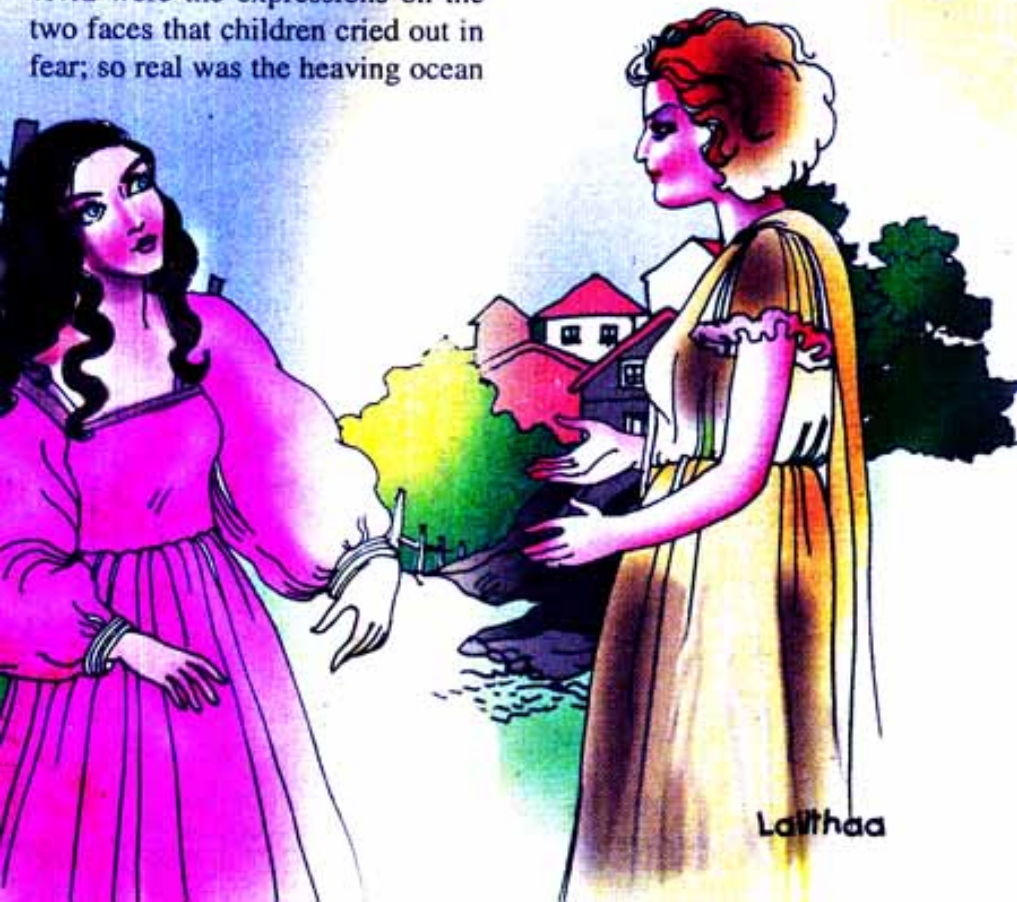
The goddess graciously said yes.

Two looms, and huge heaps of thread were brought, and the contest began.

The two competitors worked silently. Arachne's tapestry showed the gods being defeated by the human beings, in keeping with the Greek belief that the Gods had the same weaknesses as the humans. The crowd was enthralled by the details and intricacies. Then curiosity made them turn towards Minerva's loom. In an almost magical way, Minerva had depicted her own battle in which she had defeated Neptune, the God of the Oceans. So vivid were the expressions on the two faces that children cried out in fear; so real was the heaving ocean that people wiped their faces, believing that the water splashed on them.

Arachne fled from the scene. She knew that she had lost. Unable to live with her humiliation she hanged herself. But Minerva was compassionate and changed Arachne into a spider hanging at the end of a thread. And till today Arachne's descendants continue to spin intricate webs. In fact, science has named the spider species after her as Arachnida.

- Aishwarya Mohapatra,
Age 13,
St.Joseph's High School,
Bhubaneshwar



She is so sweet I could give her a kiss
None of her classes I ever miss
She is the personification of grace
She has never ceased to amaze
The teacher whom I admire
The teacher who never fails to inspire
Beautiful - both her face and mind
My Sharadha miss, she is the best of her kind

Social studies - especially history. (Yawning already?) Who doesn't find it boring? I did too. Until Sharadha Miss became my teacher. She has the magical touch, which can bring history alive. While teaching geography she transports you to places worldwide. And when you're in one of her civics classes she lights up the fire of partiotism in your heart. She is such an understanding class teacher that you can go to her with any of your problems, personal or otherwise. She will listen to you patiently and give you some good advice. She is the reason why I go to school - she is my teacher, mother at school, friend, philosopher and guide.

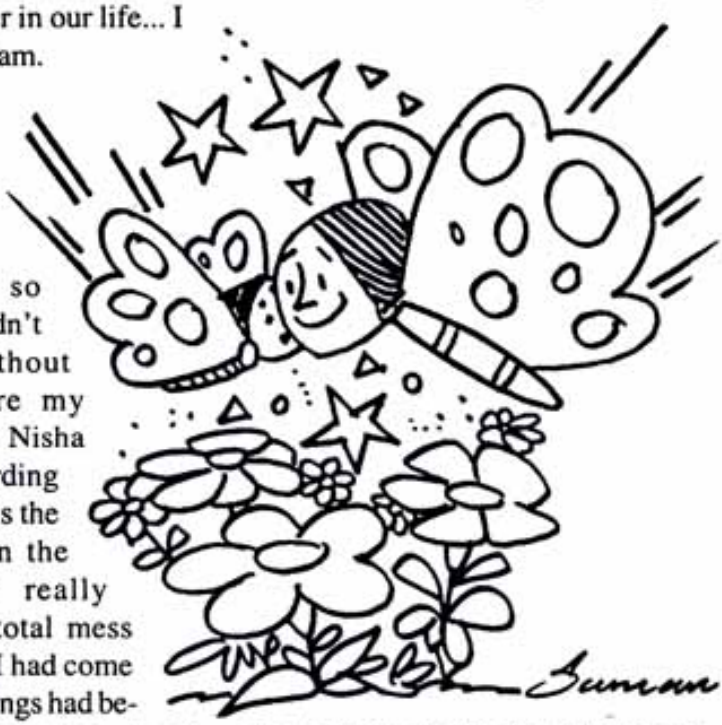
- Nithya Ramachandran,
Std.IX, Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram, Chennai

ADMIRABLE

My favourite teacher is Priya ma'am. She is our science teacher. She explains the chapter well and gives notes. She does not expect mugged up answers in examinations. She expects us to write only after we understand the basics. No one fails in our class in science. She conducts quiz revisions in which she encourages the whole class to participate. She shares her life experiences and gives an opportunity to everyone to share theirs. She treats everyone as friends. She presents gifts to two top-

pers of the class. Although she teaches only sixth and seventh standard, my classmates and I will never forget such a teacher in our life... I love you Priya Ma'am.

- Anusha, Std.VII, Air Force School, Hebbar



"Thankyou so much, she just couldn't have done it without you". These were my mother's words to Nisha teacher, who according to me was and still is the greatest teacher in the whole world. I really would've been a total mess without her. When I had come to middle school, things had become a lot more tough than at primary school. Till Std.V, I was a brilliant student but suddenly my grades started slipping, when I started VIth

SOULS!

Std. When I was in VIIth Std., they went from bad to worse. I wasn't interested in studies. T.V. was more fun. My mum was shocked on seeing my half-yearly results. Mum asked Nisha teacher to help me. And that's what she did. She got me back to take an interest in studies, made school seem more fun, and was like a second mother. I worked hard and she had faith in me. I got the highest marks in the finals and when I went to thank her for everything, she didn't say anything but just smiled and looked at me in a way that said, "I'm not surprised you got these marks, I always knew you would do it."

Nisha teacher died last summer in an accident. When the news was announced at school, I nearly fainted. I couldn't believe it. She was so young, just about in her late 20's. I cried like hell that night. I miss her a lot, but I know she's always there, one of the angels to bless me.

- Catherine Nipps, Raipur

M. LAXMI SHREYA
Std.IV, Little Angels,
Visakhapatnam.

ART Gallery

G.SUSHIL VASAN
Std.V, DAVSS School,
Chennai.

PRATHIMA,
Std.VII, Vikaasa,
Madurai

V.ANANTHA NARAYANAN
New Delhi.

G.ANIRUDH RAGHAV
Std.VIII, Venkat International
Public School, Bangalore

PETER PARKER IS HIS NAME. HE HAS ACQUIRED THE POWERS OF A SPIDER, PROPORTIONATE TO HIS BODY. NOBODY KNOWS THAT PETER IS SPIDERMAN. AFTER BECOMING A FILM STAR, PETER PARKER APPEARS IN THE DAILY NEWSPAPER. ONE DAY HE MEETS THE EDITOR...

FROM BEHIND THE CAMERA--TO IN FRONT OF IT!

FILMS HAVE STUNT SCENES. BUT SPIDERMAN CAN REALLY PERFORM SUCH ACTS... LIFT A BUS... SEND IT FLYING!

HE CAN CRAWL UPSIDE DOWN ON THE CEILING!

A HORDE OF SHUTTERBUGS ALL WANT A SHOT OF SPIDER-MAN AND MJ KISSING...
DO IT AGAIN, FOR A CLOSE-UP!
SPIDEY, CAN'T YOU RAISE YOUR MASK PART-WAY?

SO THIS IS WHY THE DISPLAY OF AFFECTION!
MR. SMILEY THINKS IT'LL BE GOOD PUBLICITY FOR THE MOVIE!
STAN LEE 4-24 SAYRE/SANCTI

HOW DOES YOUR HUSBAND FEEL ABOUT THIS, MJ?
HELP ME OUT HERE, MR. SMILEY!
SORRY... I'M ONLY THE DIRECTOR.

TIME TO TEACH MY "MOVIE STAR" WIFE A LESSON.
HUSBAND? I'M SHOCKED -- SHOCKED TO LEARN YOU'RE MARRIED!
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OUR DATE TONIGHT IS DEFINITELY OFF!
WHATTA SCOOP! FROM ROMANCE TO BUST-UP IN THREE MINUTES!
HOW'S IT FEEL TO BE JILTED BY SPIDER-MAN?

NOT AS BAD AS HE'S GOING TO FEEL -- WHEN I FINISH WITH HIM!
NOTHING, REALLY! SPIDER-MAN IS SHY! WILL HE GET OVER IT?

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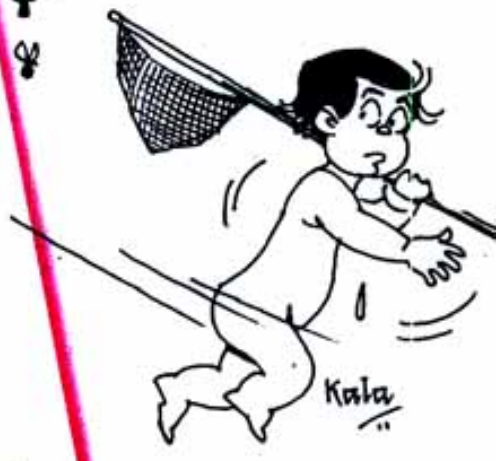
TOMMY AND THE BEES

Here is little Tommy stout,
I say he's a true scout!
He clambers up the trees,
Utterly delighted he is.
Chasing butterflies or bees;
Down the lane come the bees!
As they fly, this naughty boy,
Takes a net to capture them;
He thinks they are his toys
The buzzing bees cry "shame!"
He gets scared as they chase,
Stout Tommy flees like a mouse!
With swollen legs, hands and face
He rushes into his house.

- Anwesha Goswami, Std.V,
Atomic Energy Central School,
Mumbai



AFTER THE FINALS

Final exams are nearing,
Tension is mounting,
Parents are screaming,
While teachers are lecturing!
Is school life meant for struggling?
No time for playing or TV viewing
Dear parents, please start planning
For 'post-final' holidaying!

- C.Manjusha, Std.VII,
Air Force School, Pune

BUTTERFLIES

Butterflies , butterflies
So beautiful they are
When they all fly
Or sit on the flowers!

Green patches or black spots,
What's the secret of their beauty?
Dainty patterns and dots
Wow! Nature's creativity!

They fly hither and thither,
These natural beauties!
How I wish I could also twitter,
But I have to attend to my duties.

- Anisha Raj, Std.IV,
Vidya Bhavan High School,
Pune

OOH! LA! LA!

When I open my history book,
I just don't want to take a look!
For who can remember all those battles?
I think I'll catnap while everyone rattles.
I'm Akbar the great sipping coca-cola
While Birbal serves me with popcorn Ooh! La La!
When Noorjahan dances, I clap,
A...Ah my history teacher gives me a slap!

- Vivek, Std.IX,
St. John's High School, Bangalore

CHAN AND THE DRAGONS

Chan was a woodcutter. He lived deep in the forest with his wife. She was sad because they had no children.

One day, a wise man visited Chan. "You're a good man, Chan" said he. "I can grant you one wish."

Chan only had one wish. "I wish I could be blessed with many children", he said.

Chan's wish came true! But alas! Not two... or ten... or even fifty children. They had one hundred!

"O dear! I can't afford to feed them all!" said Chan.

His friend Sam had an idea.

"A dragon has been threatening my sheep" he said. "If you find its cave, you might find treasure."

So, Chan set off in search of treasure.

Chan didn't find the dragon. The dragon found him! When he saw it, Chan knew he couldn't fight the dragon.

Instead, he said, "I bet I'm stronger than you. I can squeeze a stone until it drips!"

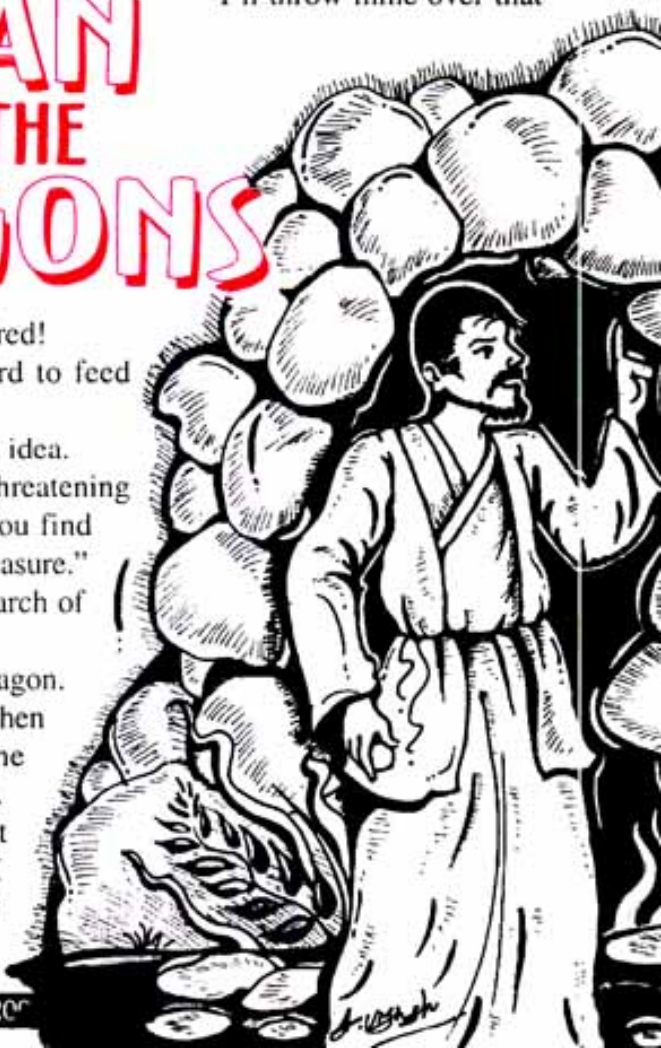
"You are strong!" grunted the dragon. He didn't know Chan's stone was a lump of old cheese.

The dragon took Chan to his mother.

"It must have been a trick", she said. "If you really are stronger than my son, I'll give you our treasure." "You won't beat my son twice" she added.

She found two clubs. "See how far you can both throw these."

"I'll throw mine over that



mountain," said the dragon. "How about you?"

"I can't throw now", Chan said. "The moon's in the way!"

Now, the dragons were scared. Chan was the strongest man they had ever met. They plotted that night.

"I'll creep into his room when he's asleep..." said the dragon. "..... then you can bash him on the head!' said the dragon's mother.

But Chan heard them. He decided to fool them and put a log on his bed -

In the middle of the night the dragon crept down to Chan's bed.

BAM! He whacked the bed just where he thought Chan's head was.

"That's killed him!" said the dragon.

When Chan appeared next morning. The dragons were astonished. "Good morning" said Chan. "I have a little bump on my head" he said. "Perhaps a flea bit me in the night?"

Chan was much too clever for the terrified dragons. They took out their treasure.

"Here" they said. "Take it! Just go away and leave us alone!"

They even carried the treasure home for him. Chan had enough gold to buy his huge family all the food they could eat for a life time.

- A.Thilakan,
Std.VII,
S.M.B.M. School,
Dindigul.

Greet with Gifts!

Greet your friends and relatives with flowers and gifts for the new year.

FLOWER MAKING

Materials required : Stocking piece (small), thin wire, stamens, green tape, thread and thick wire.

Method : Bend thin wire into petal shape as shown in the figure. Stretch the stocking piece to cover the shape and stretch it. Tie it with thread at the bottom. Make 3 or 4 such petals. Place a few stamens between the petals and tie them together with a thread. To make the stalk, take a thick wire and twist it around the flower. Cover stalk with green tape. The flower is ready.

- G.Sahiti, Std.VIII, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Mumbai

WALL HANGING

Materials required :

1. Card board (thin)
2. Scissors
3. Velvet sheet
4. Flower bouquet (single flower or double)
5. 'Best wishes' heart and glitter glue
6. Thermacol balls - coloured
7. Shells or beads

Cut the cardboard into heart or round shape. Use feviquick to stick the velvet sheet on the card board. Stick beads or shells on the edge of the cardboard giving it an attractive outline. Stick the flowers on one side and 'Best Wishes' on the other side. And after finishing it stick 4 - 5 thermacol balls. To make it more personal, place your photo after cutting it into any attractive shape. Make two holes at the top and tie a metal string. Cover it with glass paper.

- Geetha, Chennai

Hi friends,

Do you know what the words 'repartee' and 'wit' mean?

WITTY REPARTEES!

Wit is a form of humour. Someone who excels in witty remarks is called a wit. Wit usually implies quickness of thought. It is something which is spontaneous.

There are different types of wits. A **quip** is an observation or saying that has some wit but at times descends into sarcasm. A **repartee** is the form of wit where the answer is quick, and nearly a retort.

There are many people famous for their wits, including Winston Churchill, Oscar Wilde and of course Shakespeare, whose plays are replete with instances of wits and repartees.

In the following excerpt from Shakespeare's *Richard III*, Richard tries to persuade Elizabeth to woo her daughter on his behalf :

KING RICHARD: Say I will love her everlastingly.

ELIZABETH : But how long shall that title 'ever' last?

KING RICHARD : Sweetly in force, until her fair life's end.

ELIZABETH : But how long fairly shall her sweet life last?

KING RICHARD : As long as heaven and nature lengthens it.

ELIZABETH : As long as hell and Richard likes of it.

These quick responses are truly

wonderful to read. When Richard speaks of his lasting love she counters with the question of how long it will last. When he says that her life will be as long as heaven commands she tells him that what he means by heaven is only his desire for her which may or may not last long.

Now let us look at a dialogue from *'Importance of Being Earnest' by Oscar Wilde.*

ALGERNON : [*To Gwendolen*] Dear me, you are smart!

GWENDOLEN : I am always smart! Aren't I, Mr Worthing?

JACK : You're quite perfect, Miss Fairfax.

GWENDOLEN : Oh! I hope I am not that. It would leave no room for developments, and I intend to develop in many directions.

Gwendolen's reply to Jack's compliment shows her coquettish manner. She is fully aware of her effect on Jack and plays with her attractiveness.

Literature apart, some famous men are remembered for their wit and repartee in real life.

George Bernard Shaw did not like cricket. He thought that playing a game for five days was a total waste of time. He also believed that cricket was a lazy game when compared to football or other such games. So, he coined a witty remark which became world famous : "Eleven fools playing cricket and eleven thousand fools watching it!"

Perhaps you have already read this wit elsewhere and remember it. But you may not have read any of Shaw's dramas! This proves that great men are remembered more for their wit than for their valuable contributions to society!

Once a newspaper editor interviewed Churchill and while bidding farewell complimented him on his eightieth birthday and said, "hope to see you around when you're ninety!" Churchill flashed a reply : "Why not? You look quite young and healthy; You

should be able to make it!'

Do you know that Sir Winston Churchill was a great writer besides being a politician and an able administrator? His 'Chronicle of World War II' runs to several volumes. However we in India remember him more for his staunch opposition to India's freedom and his description of the Mahathma as a "half naked fakir."

Jawaharlal Nehru and Rajaji were great friends. But they also differed frequently on policy matters. They believed that such healthy discussions would ultimately lead to clarity and a good final decision. As minister without portfolio, Rajaji was once invited to a foreign policy discussion in the ministry of external affairs headed by Nehruji. Seated around the table were high ranking officials of the ministry. Nehruji said something which Rajaji opposed. Nehru looked around and called for the opinion of the officials. Perhaps unwilling to hurt their prime minister, the officers unanimously seconded Nehruji, who in turn faced Rajaji and said : "See Rajaji, the majority is on my side!" Rajaji did not lose a second to reply: "Yes Jawaharlal, the majority is on your side but common sense is on my side!"

Nehruji laughed heartily and finally accepted Rajaji's view in the matter. This incident shows that a witty remark can have a positive effect too.

President Lincoln was polishing his shoes when a senator called on him. "Imagine the president polishing his own shoes!" he said in a rather derogatory manner. "Yes" replied Lincoln, "I'm polishing my own shoes; whose shoes do you polish?"

All these examples show the powerful use of wit and repartees in the English language. Ofcourse, each language has its own quota of famous wits.

So, if you want to make an impression among your friends try to be witty but take care not to hurt anybody's feelings.

"What did Sherlock Holmes' mother call him when he was a baby?"

"Cerelac Holmes!"

H.Supraja, Std.VIII,
ASSISI MHSS,
Chennai

MONSTER .COM

2066 AD

I was surfing the net (ofcourse, sipping ginger beer and munching popcorn too!) Suddenly there was a beep. There was a message : "Help! Let me out, please."

I typed : "What can I do for you?"

"Type 'virtualreality@monster.com' " was splashed on the screen after another beep.

I followed the instruction. Nothing happened. After a minute - Beeeeeep! And a monstrous looking animal popped out of the screen! Multitentacled, stinking, three eyed beast with a black bubble body stood menacingly close to me.

I fled, trembling with fear until. I reached the garage and unlatched it. Before I could lock myself in, something 'crawled' on my shoulder. My heart stopped beating. But then it was only the dirty mop cloth. I grinned sheepishly and retrieved my book "Funny Computer Pranks" and flipped through the pages.

In one of the pages I found what I wanted. A solution to get rid of the monster : a 'bug spray' I rushed back to my room and sprayed it.

"Ha! Ha! Bug sprays won't drive me out" laughed the monster, terrifying me by chasing me out again. "I'm not like that stupid genie which went back into the bottle from which it was let out! I wont' go back. Ha! Ha!"

"Why me? Go and frighten my mom. She's scared of even cockroaches and lizards." I mumbled my suggestion.

"Good idea!" said the monster as it ran down to the kitchen. My mother was screaming. I had to do something quickly. 'What's the opposite of monster? Angel...' I tried Angels.com, entered the website and typed "save me from monster let loose by my stupidity."

The angel at the website sighed. "I'll have to use my

search engine."

"Do hurry, please" I typed.

Promptly there was a message : Type 'virtualfantasy@monster.com.' "

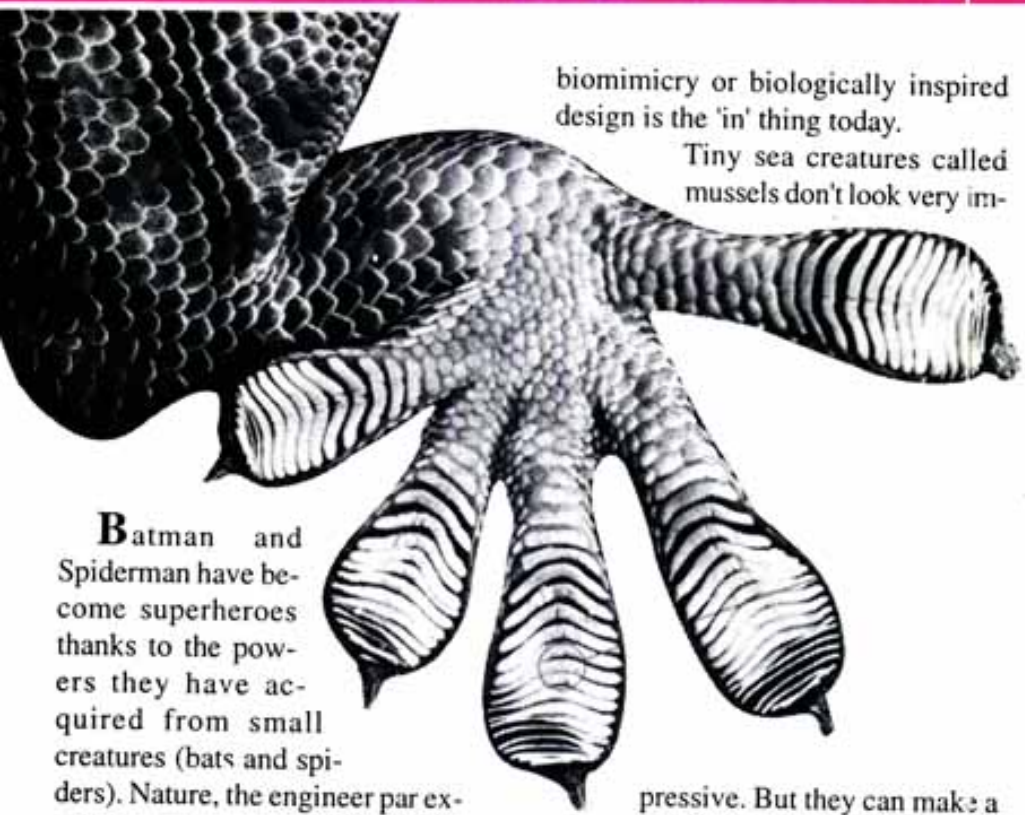
Dad was screaming, so was mom. I could hear both of them clambering up the stairs closely followed by the monstrous beast. I typed the message. Just then the animal chose to fly past me when "swish... swosh" it was sucked into the computer in much the same way as dust by a vacuum cleaner!

Dad and mom peered at the computer. "Where did he go?" (They made a funny pair - mom with a broom stick, sari hitched up. Dad in a state of undress!)

"Back to where it came from. Don't worry. It won't come back unless I invite it again" I said.

"Don't you dare!"

- Kavya S.Kumar,
Std.VIII,
Vijaya High School,
Bangalore



Batman and Spiderman have become superheroes thanks to the powers they have acquired from small creatures (bats and spiders). Nature, the engineer par excellence, has ingeneously created so many such tiny creatures with amazing powers and skills, that today's scientists are adapting and innovating them to solve major human problems. In fact a new field called biomimicry or biologically inspired design is the 'in' thing today.

Tiny sea creatures called mussels don't look very impressive. But they can make a glue that helps them anchor on to a rock without getting washed away by the strongest of sea waves! Scientists are trying to find out if they could make this 'glue' to mend shattered human bones!

Similarly, Jewel beetles are small

beetles which can detect fires miles away. Defense scientists would like to find clues to build low cost infrared detectors using this 'beetle' technology! Many, many more examples can be given. How geckos can walk up walls or even upside down on the ceiling.Locusts' ability to fly in dense swarms without colliding.

"Great! But why are these scientists not making new discoveries? Why do they turn to the time tested principles of nature and adapt them?"

NATURE'S CREATIVITY!

Did you know that the gleaming blue green feathers of a peacock are not really blue-green? It is interesting to note that these colours do not come off pigments secreted by them, but by reflecting certain external light waves in the right wavelength and with proper synchronisation. Since these colours are dependant on external illumination (and are not from within), it requires less power of its own. A screen like this one in a cell phone could work longer hours outdoors. A company in Japan used the idea of structural colour in morpho butterflies to create coloured fabrics without dyes!

You might well ask. It is simply because biological creatures have been able to go about everything we would love to do, without guzzling fossil fuels, polluting the environment or jeopardising the future. So the best way to preserve our race and preserve the planet would be by aping natural organisms!

Adapted from newsweek dated October 10, 2005.

KRISHNA NATARAJAN

The world's most famous sporting event is just two months away and pundits are beginning to list out their favourites. In this article (written over 2 months), each Group is analysed and predictions are made. At the end of Part II await a ***SURPRISE CONTEST!***

GROUP A : GERMANY, COSTA RICA, POLAND, ECUADOR

The hosts, Germany who reached the finals of the 2002 edition are firm favourites. Goalkeeper Oliver Kahn, in his last campaign, will have his work cut out behind an inexperienced German defense. Playmaker Michael Ballack is the key man.

Polish goalkeeper Jersey Dudek (the hero of Liverpool's Champions League triumph in 2005) is their main hope.

PREDICTION:
1: Germany 2: Poland
PLAYERS TO WATCH:
1: Sebastian Deisler (Attacking midfielder, Germany)
2: Lukas Podolski (Centre Forward, Germany)

GROUP B: ENGLAND, PARAGUAY, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, SWEDEN

England has failed to perform to its potential in major tournaments recently. Terry, Carragher and Ferdinand are main defenders. Wayne Bridge should be used as a defensive midfielder - giving Gerrard and Lampard the freedom to make runs. Owen and Rooney can slice through defenses like knives through butter.

Sweden has veteran striker Henrik Larsson and playmaker Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

PREDICTION :
1: England 2: Sweden
PLAYERS TO WATCH:
1: Roque Santa Cruz

(Centre Forward, Paraguay)
2: Shaun Wright-Phillips (Right Winger, England)

GROUP C:
ARGENTINA

OVER TO GERMANY-1

IVORY COAST
SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO
HOLLAND

This is one of the two 'Groups of death'. Riquelme, the Argentine midfielder will be looking to support the likes of Crespo, Tevez and Messi in attack. The Dutch side may recall midfielder Edgar Davids, to play behind Robben, Van Der Waart and Van Nistelrooy in attack. Ivory Coast is also a threat- they were losing finalists in the recently held 'African Cup Of Nations'.

PREDICTION :
1: Holland 2: Argentina
PLAYERS TO WATCH:
1: Lionel Messi (Attacking Center-forward, Argentina)
2: Didier Drogba (Centre Forward, Ivory Coast)

GROUP D:
MEXICO
IRAN
ANGOLA
PORTUGAL

Though Mexico is seeded, Portugal is the favorite. A strong defense composed of Carvalho, Rui Jorge and Andrade, midfielders Maniche, Deco, Figo and Cristiano Ronaldo and forward Pauleta should entertain the crowds. Mexico, with defender Raphael Marquez can pose a stiff challenge

PREDICTION
1: Portugal 2: Mexico
PLAYERS TO WATCH
1: Jared Borgetti (Striker, Mexico)
2: Ali Karimi (Midfielder, Iran)

An Election Budget!

'The Godhra tragedy was an accident' is the conclusion arrived at by the Banerjee Panel set up to enquire into the incident. While one feels so sorry about the tragedy, the heart laments over the reprisals which followed and which could have been avoided by right thinking leadership.

• • •

The budgets, both Railway and General, seem to have been prepared with an eye on elections. No increase in railway fares and direct taxes, new trains, more loans for farmers, unemployment doles etc . Whether this will help eradicate poverty is a moot point. Many experts feel that development of skills and generation of employment to utilise those skills throughout the year is the real answer and not doles and loans.

• • •

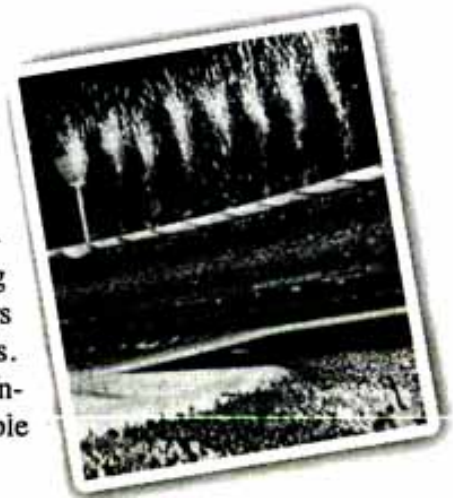
American President George W.Bush made a visit to India. An agreement has been signed to segregate atomic reactor stations intended for power, from those intended for defence. During his three day visit there were vehement demonstrations by a few political parties and sections of the public against his sabre-rattling policies.

• • •

Bomb blasts at the Sankat Mochan temple and the Cantonment station claimed 21 lives in Varanasi. Coming soon after Bush's visit, it has given room to the theory that international terrorism is creeping into India besides the internal terrorism already being faced by it.

• • •

The Commonwealth games got off to a colourful start in Australia. The Melbourne Cricket stadium was packed to capacity when the brilliance of the fireworks and the dazzling music and dance numbers stunned the spectators. Let's hope the Indian contingent will win a sizeable number of medals.



✉ I feel Gokulam is not just a magazine full of stories and riddles. It is a character building and skill kindling agent for young minds. Story writing contests encourage us to develop our language, vocabulary and imagination. Please keep us all updated with Potter news.

- S.Sripriya, Chennai

✉ Gokulam is a treasure of knowledge. My friends and I share the stories in our class. Tips given for exams were very useful. The recipe for butterbeer was good. It was a treat to the HP fans.

- N.Shweta, Madurai

✉ The new look of Gokulam is interesting and exciting. I loved the 'Exam tips' poster in the February 2006 issue, very much. The netbit on Harry Potter was as inviting as ever. It would be great if you provide us with HP posters. Every month I look forward to the Salient Saints column. Is The Mongoose Saga a serial? I'd like to welcome our new editor Ms. Seetha Ravi on behalf of all the readers of Gokulam.

- R.Aadhirai, Chennai.

I subscribe to Gokulam because of the useful information it provides, inspiring stories and especially Pottermania (now in 'Netbits'). BookNook and Salient Saints are great. "Never Mind the Exams" was very useful. I wish the readers appearing for their Boards, all the best!

- Prakruthi Shetty, Bangalore

I love Krish Cross, Book Nook, Lovable Teachers and Grandmaworm. Could you introduce more challenges like Krish Cross?

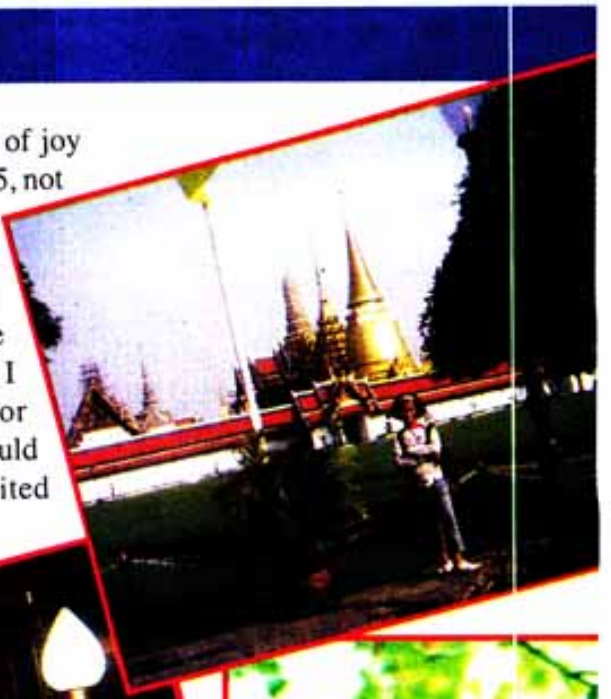
- P.Sravya, Kolkata

✉ The information on global warming, conservation of petrol, birth of petrol etc. helps to develop our general knowledge. I request you to include more and more information on science and sports.

- A.Kishore Kumar, Chennai

MAIL BAG!

I woke up with a feeling of joy on the 16th of December 2005, not only because my winter vacations were beginning on that day but also because I was leaving for Thailand the same night! The whole day I was waiting impatiently for night to arrive so that we could take off on this much-awaited trip.



The flight was for almost five hours and we reached Don Muang airport in Bangkok, Thailand around seven in the morning. After going to the hotel and freshening up we went out for a city tour in a comfortable van. We saw the temples of the Reclining Buddha and the Golden Buddha. We were truly amazed to see such a beautiful sight.

We also saw the magnificent Grand Palace and the gardens around. On the way back in the evening, we went to see the Gem's Factory where we saw how precious gems are cut and polished. Of course

the elders seemed to like the place more than us!

The next day, my friends and I went for a drawing competition. There were children from almost ten countries who were taking part in this competition. We just decided to try our best and leave the rest to God. This proved enough as all three of us came off with flying colours and won trophies!

BANGKOK *with a* BANG!

Next day, after an early breakfast we went to Safari Park, where we saw tigers, lions, bears, giraffes and lots of other animals roaming around in the open. We were scared at first but later really enjoyed ourselves

We also saw different shows like the bird shows and sea lion show.

On the last day we went to an amusement park called Dream World. There we had the time of our lives on the various rides and enclosures! We especially enjoyed the Space Mountain (a scary ride in an underground tunnel which was pitch dark). We also liked the Giant's house and Goldilocks' cottage.

Finally, like all good things our trip too came to an end and with heavy hearts but fond memories we returned to India!

- Advika Mukherjee, Age 10,
Sishya School, Chennai.

CARE(ER) ORIENTED MOMS!

In my opinion, a mother never forgets her duty towards her child. In this fast paced world, it is very difficult to survive unless both parents work. Moreover, career women are an asset to society because they can stand on their own feet and be self sufficient. Children too become good citizens.

- Priyanka Rao, Age 18, Vishakapatnam

A mother is the child's first teacher and has a unique responsibility. Mothers today forget that their home life is different from their office life. They expect special treatment at home because they are working in the office and earning for the family. They don't give enough time and care to the family especially children. A mother who is a doctor spends more time defining a balanced diet rather than preparing delicious food for her child. The world needs a 'caring' mother more than a career oriented mother!

- R.Raghavender, Std.XI, T I School, Chennai

This is the age of equality of genders. Mothers should be career oriented. Only then can a mother stand up against ill treatment and also set an example to her child. In fact, in such households it is only fair that fathers should devote some time to housework and looking after the children.

- K.Kirtisagar, Std.IV, S.V.Union Primary School, Pune

Gone are the days of mothers with a baby on her hip, feeding the child with a story on her lips! Creches and maids are more common. Mothers console themselves by saying,

"after all I am earning only for my child". But nothing can substitute mother's love. Money cannot buy that.Children who miss their mothers, end up with psychological problems,

like depression, quarelling, or even drug abuse.

- R.Aravind, DAV Sr.Sec.School, Chennai

It is indeed heartening to find more mothers becoming career oriented. There are however both positive and negative aspects to this. Children become very independent and more responsible. They sometimes take care of their siblings and household chores. Siblings become close to each other.On the other hand some children get addicted to T.V or even more harmful objects like drugs and cigarettes. However in today's context, we must take a positive approach. Career oriented mothers will definitely create better citizens and a world full of love, peace and harmony.

- M.Nikhil, Std.X, JSS Public School, Bangalore

Illiterate mothers fail to lay a basic foundation in their children. I feel very happy that my mother can guide me with my studies and also discuss my future intelligently. Today's women have proved themselves in every walk of life and I am sure under my mother's guidance I can pursue my dream career.

- Akankshya Abismruta, Std.VI, DAV Public School, Sambalpur

I cannot deny the fact that a mother's love and warmth means everything to her child. Yet I strongly feel that the mother's talents and creativity should not be locked up in the kitchen. With determination and passion for her career a woman can reach great heights. And the mother's victory and fulfillment ultimately leads to a successful child.

- R.Pavithra, Std.VIII, PSBB, Chennai.

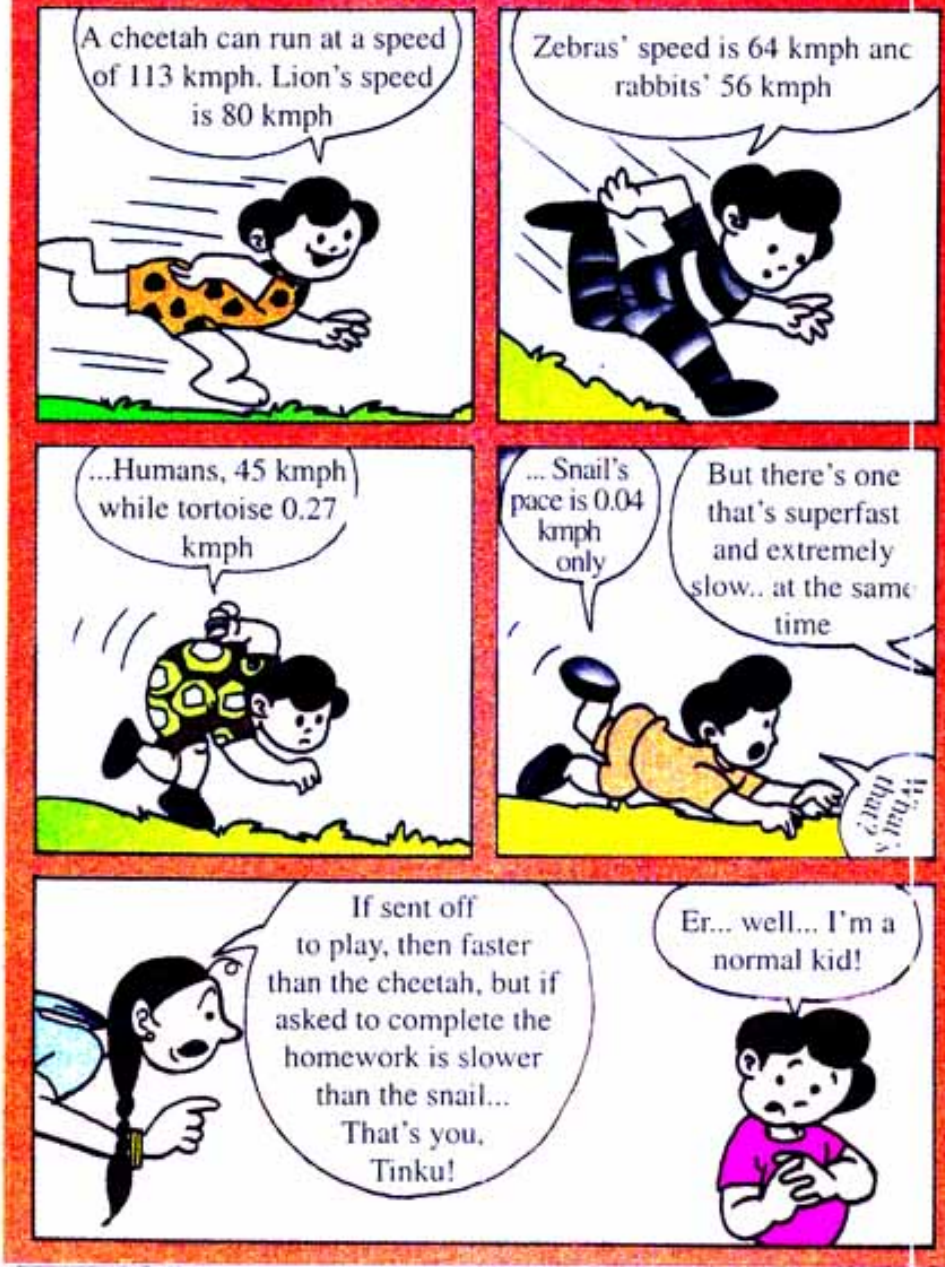
Question for the month.

The Maharashtra government has banned the sale of colas (drinks) in school canteens. Should other States follow suit?

Send us your views by 10.4.2006. Each published entry will receive a prize of Rs. 25/-. Remember to include details of your age, class, school and residential address. Those of you who are non - residents of India should send us a local (Indian) address too. You can send entries by post or by e.mail (gokulam@kalkiweekly.com)

TINKU!

Story, Pictures: Pillai



website:www.pcra.org

A DROP OF WATER!

* 70% of the earth is comprised of water.

* 97% of this water is sea water.

* Only the remaining 3% is usable.

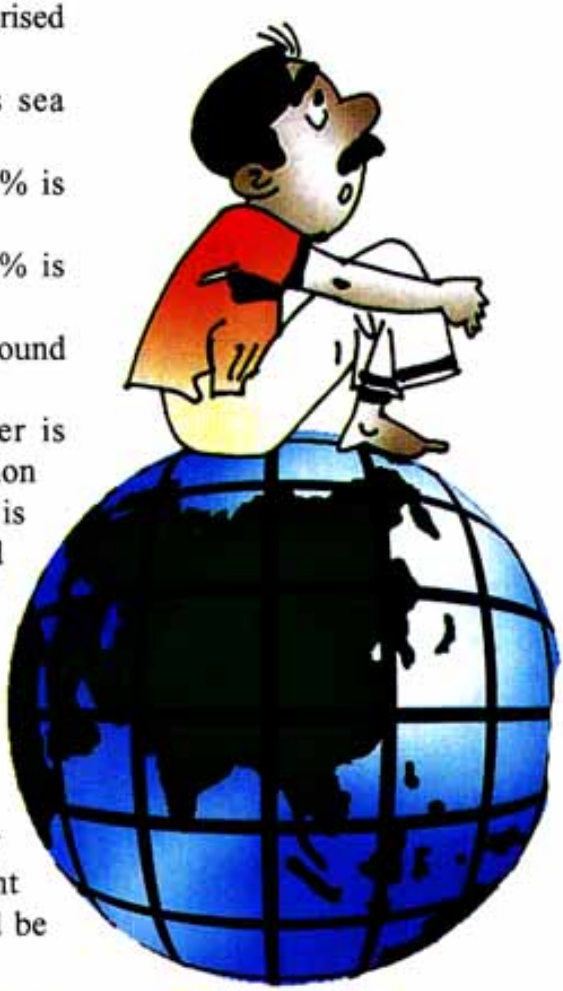
* Of this 3%, about 79% is frozen (ice).

* 20% of water is underground water.

* Only 1% of the water is readily available for utilisation

* 52% of this 1% water, is lake water, 38% is ground moisture and 1% river water. The remaining 9% is present in water creatures and other water sources.

Don't you think we should carefully conserve this scarce resource, namely water? Act today! Prevent World War III which could be fought for WATER!



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